

T H E
P I C T U R E
O F

HUMAN LIFE,

O R, T H E
WAY of the WORLD;

REPRESENTED in a SERIES of

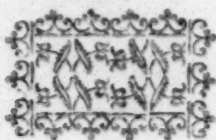
Instructive *and* Entertaining

E X A M P L E S:

O R, T H E
MENTAL OPTICIAN.

In Two VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

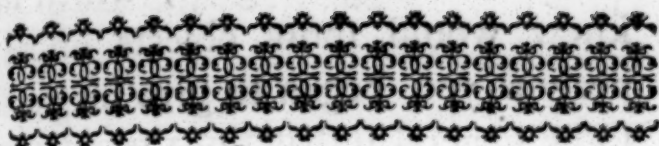


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T H E
M E N T A L O P T I C I A N .

C H A P. I.



HIRON had, by his kind method of cloathing momentous affairs in such an easy shape, so engaged the affections of Achilles, that the latter, thought much less on mounting the heighth of St. Paul's than most officers do mounting guard at St. James's, whose duty too often becomes a pain, though once their most favourite pleasure.

The day was now a little overcast, when in hopes of it's clearing

VOL. II.

B

up

up in a short time, our philosopher, instead of using his glass, which he knew would show objects improperly as yet, began to give his pupil some general instructions in relation to his present and future life; adding, that my candle of life is almost out perhaps; your's is but lately lighted.

When I survey this wondrous metropolis, and recollect by my own fatal experience, how different men are from what they appear, I can't but advise you never to trust them as they seem. The peck of salt was far from a bad proverb even at that time of day. But, as the trick, the cunning, the arts and finesse of men are unhappily (for themselves as well as the world) extended, I query whether a bushel of that kind of reasoning would be sufficient to explain

and

and unravel the labyrinths and recesses of many minds.

They are, indeed, a labyrinth, says Achilles! And happy is he who finds the clue early. I once, like all young people, thought I knew much! every day convinces me I know nothing; and further, I fear I never shall, even under so excellent a preceptor. The ebbs and flows of the human mind are too sudden and uncertain to fix any table of them. And all we can say is, that there is a tide subject to a much more uncertain government than that which governs that of the Thames.

You say right, my Achilles! says Chiron; for I, who am so skilled in the doubles and windings of the human heart (as not only yourself, but the body of my acquaintance suppose me,) will honestly declare to you, that such a Pro-

teus as man never was formed. Avaro, our intimate acquaintance, seems bent on riches: dangers at sea, perils at land are esteemed trifles to obtain his end; while all the time his end is only to obtain power; for you will soon see that he, who spunged on all his acquaintance for a dinner, till they were tired of him, at once unlocks his coffers to get a seat in p——t. The savings of a twenty years necessary meals are squandered for a single vote, as I can venture to prophecy will be the case: nor does he grudge banquets to others to carry this most favourite point, while privately you still behold him enjoying the reliques of their voluntary and joyous profusion.

Cornuto, our other friend and his neighbour, most egregiously deceives every one but ourselves; I mean with the assistance of this glass. He pretends

OPTICIAN. 5

tends to the wide world that he is jealous, grows very frantic often on the occasion, as strangers would believe; while all the while he avoids company, and locks up his wife to save expences. Nay, so covetous is the rascal grown, that I don't know whether he is not so very careless, instead of being jealous of his once delectable companion, as to connive, were she so inclined, at her going astray, provided she could get her apparel and diet out of it.

Yet this very man pretended to marry Lucinda for love; the world believed it; they still believe it; I mean the multitude. But I, who search into the heart of man, know he never loved less than on the wedding night; and only married a lady without fortune merely to have the name of doing a generous action, and being seemingly a man

6 THE MENTAL

fortune himself; for the world he knew would naturally cry, how could he venture to do this, if he was not a man of at least tolerable fortune, if not absolute independency?

Every sportsman and fox-hunter, my dear pupil, does not pursue it so very strenuously for the sake of the pleasure or the game as he pretends. No, he is often uneasy at home; and he is glad to seek relief by absence. Men of real business have glorious excuses for their absence at home; but what can a country squire do? his business is only occasional; a land-tax meeting, a quorum, a turnpike debate or some such affair is all he can plead as an excuse for absence, if the pleasure of his gun, his hounds, or his horses did not sanctify him in his wish for absence.

How

OPTICIAN.

7

How happy is it to know the truth of things, says Achilles! I declare I shall soon look on the world as a perpetual masquerade, in which I, like the colonel on guard, at those assemblies, am the only person who am, or have a right to be without my vizor. I used foolishly to think every musical doctor of a very harmonious temper, every red coated, though puny whipster, brave at heart; every divine as pious as the words he utters; and every m——r of p——t a sincere lover of his country and faithful representative of the city, town or borough corporate that chose him; but, alas! your never-erring glass, and ever friendly conversation withal, convince me that the great theatre, no less than those of the metropolis under us, abounds with actors, whose hearts are as wide of the words they utter as truth and fals-

B 4

hood;

8 THE MENTAL

hood; but the day I see clears up a little; shall we proceed to the business we came about, or continue as we now are, studious in reflection? As to myself, I do declare, I have ever found your observations so just, that I take your word in every thing you advance, without desiring to convince my eyes by the help of the telescope.

But there I discommend you, says Chiron; take no man's word in any thing: they, like myself, will often tell you truths at first, the better to palm insincerity on you afterwards, like those who are punctual in paying trifles they borrow, to raise a character of exactness and honesty, in order the better to gain larger sums, which they never intended, perhaps, to restore to you. I have often known this practiced, and to advantage too, more particularly by the gentlemen (if

(if such they deserve to be called) of that Western Island there; and I have some distant notion, that the man we see so long with the tavern-keeper just under our eye there in the church-yard, is bent on the same errand: my glass will soon discover. But first observe only how Boniface seeks his own ruin, by refusing to be paid for such trifles. We cannot at this distance hear; but trust to your own eyes and be satisfied.

Achilles accordingly looked; and as Chiron had well observed, this gentleman was, and had been, very punctual in paying the trifling bills of a single day: but his scheme was, as I observed just now, only to entice the tavern-keeper into an hog-shead of claret to be sent to his house; at which place, instead of drinking it, he archly proposed to re-sell it, put the cash in his pocket, and set

off for Holland immediately, having no ready money for travelling-charges, and yet being in absolute necessity to take such a voyage. Observe how melancholy his heart is, lest he should be refused credit for the wine ; for he has not a farthing in his pocket at present : that purse, which is made of thicker silk than ordinary, contains only brass counters ; they glitter through the silk a little, so as to imitate gold : he carries his point by this means ; for observe further, he quits England, and leaves his bail to shift for themselves : the sum is not a small one ; they are both tradesmen, and in a few months, by their ill-timed goodness (having often refused the same favour to those who really deserved it ; but here they hoped to over-charge him in their own way ; and so following of shadows they quit

OPTICIAN. 11

quit the substance) they will both be bankrupts in less than a year. But it is a kind of broken day, and we will adjourn, if you please, till to-morrow. We have been prevented our early observations hitherto by means of the weather; and so our conversation has consumed the morning. To-morrow shall be a double lecture, my Achilles! our lost time shall easily be recovered.

CHAP. II.

THE preceptor and his pupil resumed their place again: and the day, by certain symptoms, promising great variety, they immediately set to the business of observation; as well to amuse the present hour, as recover the lost time of yesterday.

You seem, already, very intent, says Chiron to his pupil: I generally

rally pass some minutes surveying the general prospect before I begin on the particular one; but I see you strike at once on the latter: every one as they like: I neither commend or discommend you: but as soon as you are disengaged, pray inform me what it is which so amazingly engages your attention?

I am observing a very old paralytic man, says Chiron, but indifferently dressed, who seems making his addresses to a very beautiful young lady; and by her apparent modesty, it would seem as if he was rather a fond and tender father, than a man of intrigue: and sure he is too old for him to offer, and she too young for him to receive, such particular addresses. Perhaps I am mistaken in both, and therefore beg your judgment in the affair.

You

You never were more deceived than in both of them! the lady is, with all that affected modesty, a prostitute of the foremost row; and he, the most lascivious wretch that ever wore the human garb. His age is at least eighty; his intimates say more: he was going post-haste to 'Change-alley, to get a penny in an honest way, as it is often called; but you see he foregoes his interest to listen to the tale of his fair-one. That man would walk from one end of the town to the other to save the penny fee of a common letter: nay more, he has often carried letters of his friends, to pocket the little copper due to the proper office; and yet in the affair of a wench he will part with his gold like dross, nor ever repent his extravagance. The lady knowing his humour, that he can't resist a tear shed from female eyes,

14 THE MENTAL

eyes, has been telling him a long history of her goods being seized, of her being at present out upon bail, and of various other distresses too tedious to enumerate. The fool believes it all; and has already granted her, in part, all that he has about him. You have, no doubt, observed how often her white handkerchief has been lifted up: no tragedy queen ever played her part better: nay, she *out-herods Herod*, (as Shakespear says;) for the lady before you, can really cry, and in quantity too, I assure you. Observe the appointment he makes with her is for the evening. He is unluckily punctual in these engagements; for she knows his hour of coming will be as exact as his visit to 'Change-alley; and in the interim, she will go to bed to a common barber's man, for whom she
has

has told this very plausible story, that she may get enough to rig him out against next Sunday, in laced ruffles, a sword, and other gentleman's accoutrements, the better to accompany her in an evening's walk at some of the public gardens of this great city, or the greater rendezvouz of all, the park of St. James's.

Now, Sir, that I may not deceive you, take the glass; keep your eye on them the few minutes they will be together, and see if I am an impostor. I have no pleasure in deceiving. My motto, if I was fool or madman enough to keep an equipage in a city where so many are kept for me, should be, *Magna est veritas et prevalebit*. But to the point: tell me what you see with your own eyes.

Why,

16 THE MENTAL

Why, all that you have advanced, I see now in proof: I find her heart fixed on the meeting you have mentioned; and she would quit the bosom of a duke to answer the same appointment. But you wrong him, when you say he is a common barber: I perceive he is a regular hair-cutter, or *Friseur*, that he sings, plays the flute, dances tolerably, and, above all, can spout tragedy, and even with the proper attitudes; so that resistance is impossible for a mind so weak as her's.

As to the half-starved cull, I see something even further than you mentioned; he is not only poor, but endeavours to appear so, that he may the better pass for rich. There is not a greater mistake in this vast metropolis, than making a figure to gain credit; the reverse would better do it: plain apparel, a
mutton

mutton pye eat at a pastry-cook's shop, standing, (as near 'Change-alley as possible) about the hour of noon, are stronger incitements to credit than fringed ruffles, or an embroidered coat.

I never knew these finesses gain further than your honour, your excellence, your lordship, or your grace, from a shoe-boy, porter, or hackney-coachman; a pleasure, I should think, a very transitory one. Were I to begin the world upon the humming order, as it is in general called, I would appear as a quaker: and if I plaid tricks for credit at all, the exchange should tremble. I hate a pedlar or huckster in cheating; a plumb or nothing. I remember well a certain cashier who robbed the bank, and did it (as Shakespear says) with *unwasht hands*. His scheme was to retire at once,
and

18 THE MENTAL

and to take with him such a sum as would make him happy for life; well knowing that many countries look on him as the best subject who brings most money into the state or commonwealth: this arch wag found no cloak so good a one as religion; and therefore constantly attended prayers on week days, which indeed draws more attention: the church was just at hand, and if he was in the middle of signing his name, it has been said that he would quit it to serve his God; adding, if I forget my God, he will no doubt forget me.

To cheat for trifles of hundreds, or single thousand pounds, was not his mark: no; he wanted to retire for good and all, as it is commonly called, let the means of obtaining be ever so bad; and having the character of a church-going man,

OPTICIAN. 19

no trust or confidence was thought too great: instead of thousands, he was trusted, like the good steward, with tens of thousands: and so watching his happy minute, one day when every body thought he was gone forth to serve God, he served himself with about 30,000*l.* and made off undiscovered.

But I see you again lifting your glass, and judiciously enough trusting rather to your eyes than ears; which in the wide world would be right enough for many reasons; but my tongue has never yet deceived you, nor ever will: but tell me, my Achilles, what is it now which so engrosses your attention? a beau, a coquet, a pimp, a player, or what? Neither, said Achilles, my learned Chiron! I am watching the motions of a solitary man, who plants himself exactly opposite a shop near
Temple-

20 THE MENTAL

Temple-bar, which I remember, when I am in the streets, is a wealthy banker's. He seems surveying it as though he would draw it with a pencil ; or, if he was by profession an house-breaker (for they are all gentlemen I assure you) as though he would, or intended to rob it.

Your observation is natural enough, but not correct in this instance. He was formerly bred there, and was in good commons, as it is commonly said of those who live well ; but the play-bills unluckily having been always pasted up at his master's window, he chose rather often to read them than his leidger, and by degrees, turned player ; saying, every man should follow nature, and not wrap her talents in a napkin, which is my case ; for I was born a player, and a player

I will be. Whether he is so or no, the town best judges; but that he is on the stage, every play-bill of the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet will convince you.

From whence do you think now his gravity and anxiety arise, says Chiron? Why, from having left the shop, answers Achilles, no doubt. Not so, replied Chiron: he looks on the people employed within doors there as the merest wretches and grubworms imaginable, would not be seen to drink with them for the Indies; and, as to knowlege, declares that Wingate's arithmetick is (according to his Bible)

The sea-mark of their utmost sail.

No, truly, you are mistaken; look through the glass properly; and though I do not love to anticipate
your

22 THE MENTAL

your pleasure in this or any thing else, yet I am sure you will laugh, and most heartily too, when you know the source and reason of his uneasiness.

Achilles having surveyed him some minutes, was almost ready to drop the glass with laughing: when Chiron begging to know if he thought aright, was answered, truly you have: I would not have believed there had been such a wretch on earth: loss of money he laughs at; the want of proper rank he laughs at also! which all prudent people think he lost by treading the buskin: well! and then laugh'd still louder and louder:—Do pr'ythee take the glass for fear of accidents. The fool! ha, ha, ha! the fool is—but I can't speak for laughing; he is fretting that the printer of the
daily

daily play-bills has by accident forgot to put his name in red letters.

Now we see aright, says Chiron; and now learn one maxim of me, my Achilles, and we will retire for this day. Mankind are generally more vain of small than great talents; and are more angry at not being commended for what they but moderately excel in, than where they are truly excellent. If I have time I will open this subject as we go down stairs: if any thing prevents, I will, at our next meeting, give you proofs of the seeming oddities I advance. 'Tis a strange world, my dear Achilles; you'll live to prove it, as I have done; mark my words. It is not only a strange world, replies Achilles, but, in the language of old Ben, it is

— *A mad world my masters.*

Adieu,

24 THE MENTAL

Adieu, till the morning: whatever we find in the mean time we will mutually impart; and so all happiness attend you for the remainder of this pleasant and cheerful day.

CHAP. III.

CHIRON and his pupil were so punctual to their appointment, that it was difficult to know which came first, their watches and inclinations being mutually set together: when, as they entered the door, the former began; We can, as we ascend to our desired point, converse on what we last talked of, as well as count the steps, which idle people are too apt to do. I mentioned to you yesterday that men are generally more vain of what they are but half excellent in, than in what they wholly understand. A friend
of

of mine is the best manual surgeon in this, or any part of the world; yet commend his operations, his dexterity, as well as lenity in performing them, together with his excellent method of dressing the wounds and finishing the cure, and he immediately cries like Master Bobadill in the comedy—Pshaw—and pretty near in the same key too.

Then seriously asks if you have seen his last book on gun-shot wounds. If no, he rebukes you as eagerly as a coquet would that heard a gentleman call her good-natured when she wanted to be thought pretty. “Don’t tell me,” says she, of sense and good-nature, judgment and benevolence; “how do you like my hair? Do you think I look well with powder or better without? Come, Vol. II. C “pr’ythee!

“pr’ythee! do flatter me, and I’ll
“love you extremely.”

This is knowing life and the world, as it is, and not only as it seems, says Achilles. I have seen myself an organist, who was allowed by his enemies, much more his friends, to have the best finger of any man living; and yet commend his playing and he was angry; but touch him on the string of composition, and you won his heart. Ah! says he, if you had once heard my fourth *Sonata*, with all its parts! but damn them, if you did, I fear, and even know, that few of the race of modern fiddlers would do it justice. Don’t tell me, as impertinent people often will, that it is after the manner of Corelli, of Geminiani, or Signior Degiardini; ’tis all my own; I depend on no one;

one; *Totus in se teres atque rotundas*
is my motto.

Nay, says Chiron, (still as they mounted the steps, and occasionally rested themselves) I have known a parson, who was the best preacher and reader of prayers in this extensive city, and he, truly, was never so happy as when he was commended for being excellent at chess. No doubt he played the game well: but, why, unless from the depravity of human nature, when he equally excelled in both, did he give this paltry perfection the preference? Yet, so it is! and, but that we are arrived at our point of view, I could instance you a thousand such examples; aye, ten thousand, and ten thousand to that, of women, who are excellent at pickles and preserves, yet love to be applauded for their singing, with as little reason as a

28 THE MENTAL

bittern ought. Of military men, who had even done some little service to their country in battle, but loved rather the eccho of their intrigues with German countesses and Dutch Burgo-mistresses: In short, I do almost lay it down for a rule, which every day's practice shall verify, that nineteen in twenty of this vast metropolis, (in very few words) mistake their several talents. So much for that: now to our business.

The clear sky, and serenity of the weather, says Achilles, promise us great entertainment to-day. I wish the streets may be full; but I fear the news of some sports and pastimes, this holiday season, will baulk our curiosity.

Not in the least, says Chiron; we will follow them into the fields and villages, my Achilles! We will pursue

pursue them in their pleasures, and watch them in their revelry: I can scarce promise myself, or you, a greater delight: men are more open in their hours of amusement than in those of business: they are unguarded times in general; and even the preciseness of old maids vanishes on those occasions. Let us examine the paths towards Pancras first.

Achilles very soon began to laugh at some quaint groupes of characters, as he called them, and begged to know who they were: they were merry to a degree, as it appeared; for Achilles had by experience learned, not to take any thing as it seemed, particularly among the human race; animals, says he, have little disguise; your dog is truly happy at your arrival, when he jumps up to you; and your horse, no doubt, when he neighs, is in

30 THE MENTAL

pleasure also; but man, and man alone, is treacherous!

You say right, replies Chiron; man is inded the strangest animal of all: but you ask'd me e'en now who those chearful figures were. You will hardly believe when I inform you; they are truly the contrary of what they seem; as indeed most objects are that fall under our observation; and but for this, our joint, or several entertainments would indeed be paltry.

That groupe of laughing people then are relations all; some more distant than others, going to Pancras on a wedding of one in the company. The lady who walks first and foremost is the bride that is to be; and has had the luck to catch hold of a gentleman of fortune: (he in blue there;) she's unportioned herself. The crowd who seem so merry,

merry, are all ready to hang themselves in spite, and are now meditating, plotting, contriving, and caballing if they cannot some how or other contrive to break off the marriage. You see they are whispering to the Husband that is to be, and insinuating a thousand stories to him, but to her disadvantage; while she innocently and ignorantly walks before, thinking only of pleasure and enjoyment. I would fain have wished you had escaped this sight, as I really think it is a worse picture of life than any that can be drawn before you: nay, they will carry their point; for at the church door they will part, and never meet again. Could you have believed this? take up the glass and satisfy your own curiosity and doubt.

Achilles trembled so while he observed them, that he could hardly

hold the glass steady. But, says he, I find all you say is but too true; they are people of the blackest hearts and tempers I ever heard of: they whisper the credulous fool that she is no better than she should be; that the revealer of all secrets, Old Time, will, if they will credit him, reveal many mysteries. That they are far from wishing her ill, but they mean well to him; wish only that he would see with his own eyes, and not with the eyes of a lover: that they can see with half an eye, but lovers in general are blind, at least to their own interest and happiness.

What a world we live in, says Achilles! a few minutes, but for such villainous proceedings, would have made the lady happy; and, which is worse, that she herself picked out and solicited these very people for her friends and companions.

ons. 'Tis often so, says Chiron; when we might often depend on our own merits we are diffident, and those we call in aid, are the very means of ruining us. This young lady was too sure of her prize, and insulted her companions too much on her imagined and presumptive success. You will see that she will pay dear for it in the end; and the people who now with heavy hearts appear chearful, will on their return affect to be melancholy and sorrowful; when indeed they are merry and elate at the disappointment of Florella, for that is her name.

I can scarce believe my eyes, says Achilles; and but that I never found your glass deceive me, should almost wish for Florella's sake (if that is her name) that it for once told false. But why should they all join, says Achilles in one plan of destruction? Why

34 THE MENTAL

all unite without one protesting person to ruin such innocent happiness?

That is a question, which to answer properly, would take me up more time than we are masters of to-day; and therefore shall only observe to you, that for your conduct in life, 'tis no uncommon thing to see every thing reversed; and that smiling features conceal worse hearts often than gloomy countenances.

Achilles was not sorry to shift the scene, and observing some people sitting on the grass seemingly idle, he said those fellows, no doubt, are lame or tired, by their resting themselves after this manner; when every body else are active and in exercise.

You are again mistaken, says Chiron; those fellows are all young, lusty, and of good courage; yet had rather

rather lounge in that manner, than serve their king, their country, or themselves. They are the most miserable of all beings, for they are tired of life and themselves: they had rather pilfer than work honestly for daily bread; and have most of them fair opportunities of living well, which they slight and neglect. Scarce one of that knot of fellows will be alive by this time next year; they being all in their hearts determined to be quicker in raising money, than honesty generally allows; and so will all come to the gallows.

If these are the spectacles of holiday times, I would rather retire and adjourn to some better day. To tell you the truth, the first sight of the disappointed wedding, owing to the villainy of the seeming friends, has so affected me, that I have no spirits for any other objects to-day:
let

36 THE MENTAL

let us retire and meditate on what may be, not what has been. I shall soon grow tired of speculation, if such objects only present themselves.

No, no, says Chiron; don't let us retire for the day; only adjourn for an hour or two in the shade, for the sun has great power at this time of the day; by descending a few steps we shall be entirely free from noise: unwelcome objects, and too much heat; there we can converse by fancy, without seeing the very characters, since they are so despicable. And I assure you, from my own known experience, that in this wide world, where one object will give you pleasure, twenty will give you pain. We generally pay dear for curiosity, and I fear you will become a man-hater. But, cheer up; perhaps, anon, we shall find better
enter-

entertainment; 'till then let us be
 ear, and not eye witnesses of the fol-
 lies of mankind.

C H A P. IV.

THE serious reflexions, which
 it was expected would have
 past in the shade, were all very un-
 luckily interrupted by a volume of
 modern novels, being found on the
 bench, left by some careless and for-
 getful lady perhaps; and which, as
 it appeared, belonged to some one of
 the circulating libraries; who, know-
 ing the present race of readers are
 beaux, coquettes, kept mistresses,
 and their *fille de chambres*, generally
 contrive such a dish as will suit the
 appetites of their numerous guests.

As this work was the second part
 or volume, (if a book of that little
 kind may bear so great a name) of
 the

38 THE MENTAL

the history of Miss Butterfly and Sir Violet Caterpillar, the very name was such a bar to their reading any part of it, that Chiron immediately laid it in the same place again, with great gravity and exactness, and taking out his pencil, wrote on the wall over the bench where the book was laid, some characters like Arabic, which I then avoided asking him the meaning of, as I could very easily perceive he was ruffled.

What a silly age we live in ! says he ; idle I can't so entirely call them, for they employ themselves in reading, though of the vilest productions. I querè whether, if there were not a proper quantity of Bibles and Common-Prayer-Books already printed to answer the small demands of those who may take a delight in the most obsolete and antiquate work, whether now, without p———y assistance,

assistance, the booksellers below there would undertake to reprint either one or the other.

If Gothic ornaments were not now the high mode, not a bishop would fit up his chapel: but he takes a pleasure in gathering up a little stained glass, and some old tabernacle work, that he may be thought a man of taste; for he is sure of his title to divinity, by having the addition to his name of *Right Reverend*. I can easily imagine, says Chiron, (but in a whisper, as they then drew near the famous gallery) a young divine, and doctor in divinity, for such of late are thought the properest for that office, perhaps, that they may the better undertake the journies they ought to make to their most distant churches, and on foot too, as in many parts of Wales there are neither roads for carriages

or

or horses ; it can be for no other reason. * * * *

I say, I can easily imagine such a whipster conversing with a p—e m——r in his closet, where, by having proved his p——y connections, he is always welcome ; fixing on his bishopricks, not because that part of the kingdom wants religious instruction more than any other ; nor because the clergy of that particular diocese want example to reform them, but because the glebe lies near the palace, or the place has been lately beautified, or, most likely, because the patronage is better than what was first offered him. A man need not be a prophet, nor, as Shakespear says, need a ghost come from the grave, to guess how familiar the conversation would be between two such personages, even on so momentous an affair : and his lord-

lordship (that is to be) joking too, that there are more beautiful women in that part of England than any other.

After this manner, answered Achilles, is it that preferment is given? I ever thought the step to a bishoprick, at least, (however the law and army might be corrupted) was an absolute knowledge of the eastern languages, and a proper share of argument to confute free-thinkers, deists, and all that train of whimsical knowledge now afloat in this vast city.

You never were more wide of the truth, answered Chiron; these were formerly the steps to honour and preferment in all the professions; but now the scene is changed; and he who can serve a minister in some paltry piece of work, among the country boroughs, will more surely
rise

42 THE MENTAL

rise to dignity than an apostle, could it be possible either to restore one to life, or have one of our own age. Indeed I don't know now whether learning is not rather an impediment and hindrance, than an advantage in promotion: they chuse to have them all on a level in science and virtue, to prevent jealousies; which would most certainly arise, if one rose superior to another.

I look upon this to have been the plan for many years last past, and that all others have been decry'd long since, as obsolete and ridiculous. Do you know that the Rev. Mr. * * *, lost all views of a mitre, by only saying, when once he arrived at that dignity, he propos'd raising the honour of it, and living in splendor as they did in old days. This was whisper'd. They dreaded the thoughts of residence at their dioceses,

dioceses, and keeping a table: they knew, in such a situation, preferment would stand still, and translations be out of sight: and so they put a stop to him: and now, tho' a K—'s chaplain of above forty years standing, he is only a plain rector in H——shire.

But this reverend gentleman was not quite singular in his disappointment; there are twenty more such, of my own knowlege and intimacy; and no doubt there are a thousand, if it were worth the disquisition to search after them; some for the same reason, others for a different one. And as to the rest of the professions, I know half a score of general officers, now pinching on half pay, who would have had regiments, but that they proposed being disciplinarians, and examining into the cloathing and management of

44 THE MENTAL

of those under them. Experiments of this kind are ever dangerous while mankind thus pursue their corrupt measures; and while the only steps to advancement are an alliance with a country alderman, or returning officer of a distant borough.

If I was K—g of this, or any other country, said Chiron, I would, and believe I should be often right in it, dispose preferments where the least mention was made of the party by the rascals of my court: I should even imagine the person they made the most noise about, was the least deserving, and that they had views of their own to answer, more than of the public: Nay, I don't know whether the best method would not be to walk in disguise about the metropolis, and fix on him whom the public most approve.

Interdum

Interdum populus rectum putat.

I remember once a young fellow, who, fired with the true military glory, quitted school, where he was esteemed an excellent scholar, and enlisted himself into a marching regiment. He might have had good preferment in the church, and a good estate, but for this behaviour of his ; for his relations and friends opposed him tooth and nail ; and he was robbed at last of his very birth-right, by them.

However, honour was his pursuit, and not profit ; his joy was a brown musket, red coat, and a prospect of rank. A war broke out. It is amazing the dangers he went through ! His skill in discipline, in gunnery, fortification, and every branch of the mathematics, was very great ;

46 THE MENTAL

great; and he shewed it where it often was wanting in those who were in the first incomes of the army he served in: however, they had good salaries, and their dependents flattered them.

Many general officers who were obliged to this very private neglected man, for his plans of operation, and bore the credit of them from him, would so far be grateful, that they offered to lend him money to purchase a commission; but he as often refused; swearing, that as a soldier he would not purchase with any other price than blood: and so he remained to the last.

Will you believe me, that this man, with the generosity of a prince, the bravery of a Roman, and skill of the first commander, could never obtain any thing higher in his profession than a serjeant's pike? He would,

would, out of his little pay, assist, on a long march, his weary and sinking comrades : the widow of a brother soldier always was welcome to his modicums of provision ; and no service was too dangerous for him to offer himself a first volunteer in. And what do you think, besides his impolitic stubbornness in not accepting money to purchase, could hinder him from advancement ?

No doubt, said Achilles, misbehaviour of some kind ; for many a soldier may be a strict martinet in duty, and yet, in imitation of his betters, be a drunkard, a sodomite, or a gamester, and therefore unfit for any advancement. No, my Achilles, replied Chiron, he was virtuous, if I may use that expression, to a fault ; I mean for a soldier, who has a license to do many things which pass unobserved ; or,
if

48 THE MENTAL

if observed, are commended: to tell you the truth, he did misbehave, according to the notion of misbehaviour universally spread in this sad age; for in a little freehold in the country, he had the assurance to give his vote in favour of the man whom the court opposed.

Thus died the greatest subaltern hero of this, or any other age: and though I appear to be talking of a story of long date, step up, and this very instant you will see him going to his long home, attended by many real mourners. He has preserved the military to the last; for observe, he will not be buried in a coffin, like common mechanics, but is laid on a board, or bier, in his regimentals, with his firelock in a proper posture, and a sword drawn in his hand: for want of money there were no minute guns; but

but you will soon hear a volley over his grave ; and posterity will, perhaps, visit his tomb-stone with more pleasure, than those, who are, like a certain one of late date, surrounded with trophies they never deserved.

I could give many more instances of such fatal disappointments to noble minds ; but I see the solemnity affects you, and you grieve to think of, what is so amiably expressed in a poem called the Church-yard ; where, had the thoughts been original, the author would have liv'd among the first class of writers ; but the late ingenious Dr. Parnelle had been before him : however, as a proof of the many beauties, let me repeat this one, which is adroit to our purpose.

*Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean
bear ;*

*Full many a flow'r is born to blush un-
seen,
And waste it's sweetness on the de-
sert air.*

Many a M—y, and many a P—t, my dear Achilles, are lost for want of proper occasions to shew themselves; equal in abilities and eloquence: many a Marlborough, many an Eugene, lie in obscurity; and there will lie, unless some pen does justice to that merit, which, perhaps, only myself and you are so well acquainted with.

But in truth, my Achilles! I ought to draw before your eyes the agreeable scenes of life: and such there are to be found: to-morrow I
hope

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52 THE MENTAL

their walking friends. The fifth, and last act, proves, or disproves, the play to be complete; the former ones are nothing.

I always look beyond the present glare and glitter, and am diving into futurity. When I see, and that in a very short space of time often, the boasting and bullying banker, living to want the odd shillings of the guineas he has squandered; merchants of taste and luxury glad to accept the certain pittance of a college; and proud priests nor refusing alms of a less public nature, by raising subscriptions for distressed families, when all the while the sum is for themselves.—Pride, my Achilles! is so ridiculous a passion, that I always write down those who possess it for fools, and believe, in general, I am not much deceived in my judgment of them.

What

What have we to be proud of, my Achilles ! Of beauty ? no : See that grave-digger under us shoveling the skull of one, who, perhaps, was the toast of a whole city. Of genius ? no : that other skull might have been a poet or philosopher. Is it of riches then ? no : for all the riches of the several bankers in Lombard-street, (as it is called, there, before your eyes) would not purchase a moment's life, or put off the seemingly trifling circumstance of pain attending a raging tooth. Enough of them : we will, for the future, rather entertain our eyes than our ears ; and for the present, conclude with our great poet.

*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely
players.*

C H A P. V.

I HOPE, says Chiron, that we shall find some objects that will this day convince you of what we talked together yesterday afternoon, when we had finished our morning observation. Is it not amazing how uncertain and vague are the inclinations of mankind, that they scarce continue in one mind for a season?

Poor honest English walnut-tree, the produce of our glorious country, must now give place to every maggot of a whimsical brain, which, in obedience to the fashion of the times, he calls Chinese-work. Ev'ry city tradesman has his busts, his terminus's, his vases, and urns; though the cieling of his room is scarce high enough to hang a bird-cage

cage, without interrupting the path of any walking visiter.

Homer, who, if alive, would have wanted a loaf of bread, perhaps, is now honoured by ev'ry baker, or his wife, in their back parlour, with a mahogany bracket to rest his head on, and nothing is grudged, of labour or expence, to keep the great writer clean; and yet alive might have worn a shirt two months before any laundress would have washed him on credit: and the descendant of that bookseller, whose ancestor gave 10*l.* and no more, for the copy of Milton, would now spend as much in one supper, on the same person, to say Milton had sat in this or that room of his, and have it publicly known how well he entertained the great author, tho' he would not have sent him the va-

lue of one dinner home to his lodging.

You see, my dear Achilles ! how selfish the world are ; and how, amidst all their profusion of riot and banqueting, they study only their own paltry interest. But let us observe a little below, as the weather invites us so kindly to the business in hand, whether there is not a glaring instance of what I have advanced, in that great square there ; in the middle of which is a man on horseback, gilt like a Bartholomew-fair piece of gingerbread ; and in the last house on the left hand, I think it will answer my observation : tell me what you see.

Why, I was looking, says Achilles, at the same place ; and was tempted to the fight by the excessive quantity of rich visiters, and splendid equipages, scattered about
the

the several streets leading to the place; they seem all paying great respect to the master or mistress of the house, and no doubt the parties are all happy: I see through the glass of the dining-room windows great pleasure in all their countenances, except one, and he seems to be the person to whom they pay all the homage in question. But pray inform me if I am right in my calculations.

Indeed I wonder your experience has not already taught you, in order to understand human affairs right, to take almost every thing by contraries: the melancholy person is chearful at heart, and the circle of flatterers round him melancholy enough: his history is this, in few words; and I will prove it to you afterwards.

D 5

He

58 THE MENTAL

He is the son of a gentleman, who left him early to the wide world, in the truest sense ; for during many years, he felt all those slights which the most ingenious commonly suffer : he has been refused a dinner often, even where he has for three hours before been entertaining the company with the eloquence of a P—t or a M—y ; but because he was a gentleman, and did not profess teaching, he was denied the common civility of a family dinner, though half the people at the table were journeymen and apprentices of the lowest class. The music-master, who was teaching young miss a little empty sound, was, besides his golden guinea for every three lessons after, and as much paid for entrance as would buy a good plain suit of cloaths, to be invited to dinner, and prest to it : the gentleman there,

who could teach sense and reason, is given to understand, that there is company to-day, but any other day he shall be welcome, though the word heartily is not joined to it.

The famous company are, as I said before, the music-master, writing-master, and fencing-master: a family invitation to such worthy guests, while the philosopher, the poet, the statesman, the mathematician, the astronomer, and polite well-bred gentleman, is discarded with a frown, worse than that of a nobleman's porter to a walking clergyman in rusty robes.

To come to the point, that very gentleman there, who is the master of the house, after various troubles, rebuffs, and disappointments, too tedious to mention, is arrived, by the death of a relation, to a very great and capital fortune: He who

60 THE MENTAL

was fligheed, so as scarce to be invited even to drink tea with any family where there were any young ladies, now all of a sudden is addressed by the parents of several to accept their daughters in marriage, and that they shall think it an honour to be so well allied.

What a change ! You see some are offering their coaches and chairs, others their country houses till his own is built, and others sending game, fruit, fish, china, books, or whatever they can think of necessary, to his place of genteel house-keeping. Strange world ! Six weeks ago he wanted shoes ; and has often wore boots, and a great-coat, to hide his want of shirt and stockings.

He was ever a writer of the first class in my estimation ; but then, scarce a bookseller would allow him
the

the pay of a common Temple hackney writer, who can whistle as he goes on, because he is not inventing, but copying. Now observe a levèè of booksellers, waiting in the ground parlour, to buy the favour of any production he will chuse to honour them with, (mind their words) for now, say they, your honour would scorn to make any advantage of your performances, tho' so excellent in their way.

Can you wonder then that he (the master) looks so grave? He absolutely hates the sight of them: He is not melancholy, but 'tis absolute spleen, which has drawed down his visage so; for within his heart he laughs aloud to think he his independent, and that he can see through all their finesses: They on the other hand, though seemingly chearful, are very down cast; they perceive

62 THE MENTAL

perceive he looks cool on them, and flights their offers. Don't you see what a list of cards there are against his chimney-glass? They are invitations to dine; and you see he accepts of none, even though they back it with the hypocritical words, aye, and a hearty welcome: he wisely turns a deaf ear, and yet does not lose his temper and politeness; for which I commend him: their punishment is the severest.

Truly, says Achilles! I think they do seem dejected now; and I think, upon examination with your glass, he is chearful enough. His equipage I see is not made, for he has ordered a common hackney chair to the door: You see how they solicit to lend him; nay, they add further, to have the honour of lending him their equipages! And when he answers, that he could
not

not have the assurance to go in a coach with coronets on it: they one and all answer, why, you are of the elder branch of the Duke of ****'s family, if you would own it; we all know it to be so, and wonder you will not lay claim to it: oh, fie! you are too modest; it is a fault, and a very great one, as times go.

Observe, a month ago, that when this gentleman very modestly spoke of only being at the latter-end of a good family, and was dubious if he was of the elder or younger branch, that he was not only thought, but called, an impertinent, boasting, vain-glorious coxcomb; and so far from being of a good family, that because one of his own near relations met with some misfortunes, and was obliged to leave his country for debt, they pretended never to know

64 THE MENTAL

know any relation of his but that one, and often insisted, to make the stroke the deeper, that he himself was accessory to his ruin.

Now pray observe, he is not known to have a poor relation in the world: all those gaudy, well-dressed people, are calling him cousin; and though he faintly answers, owing to the resentment he bears them, they cry out, one and all, come, don't be so modest, we shall think it an honour to claim kin with you; and am sure, if you will not, I will myself be at the expence of having your pedigree blazoned out for my own amusement.

I ever, said Achilles, thought the world were cruel and cunning, but could not have believed they would ever have carried it so far: Why, they expose themselves, do they not? Aye! but, says Chiron, for
the

the sake of their dear advantage, they will stand all that, and ten times more: they have views of interest at once: they hope his favour at court, perhaps, or in the country, for I hear he has a share in a borough which came with the estate: you see the very prime m—r's secretary bows to him, begs, if he wants a parcel of burgundy or champagne, duty-free, that he will only say the word, and it shall be landed in S—x, just such as his lord and master drinks, for himself and best friends; hopes he will make C——t in his way always to his own country seat, and whether his g—e is down or no, the orders will be given to make it his home whenever he will pass that way: and, in short — but the subject is already sufficiently handled; for I am observing in the same corner of the town,

tho'

66 THE MENTAL

tho' not in the same place, the very reverse of this gentleman's situation: I am watching a deserted nobleman's house, who, some few years ago, was splendor itself, and generous, as it has since appeared, to a fault; though at that time, observe me, no one found fault with him or his conduct: Such is the same world, my Achilles! See only how cruelly the creditors exult over his fall! His plate, off which they have shared a score banquets, and commended them, while they were so employed, is now selling by weight, and these dirty, greasy citizens, are rejoicing at the share they are to have in his furniture and emoluments.

No-body pities him! nor has he a friend to visit him, but a lawyer, and a proud parson, who both of them, in their different ways, still plunder

plunder him, as though nothing had happened; the former drains his purse of what little is left, while the latter pretends it is pity my lord should dine alone, and so puts his lordship to the additional expence of another fowl and t'other bottle.

But the worst circumstance is, the vulgar jests that are passed on his conduct by every ale-wife in the parish; who cries, with her hands rested on her hips, that my lord, as they call him, (though, says she, my man can buy an hundred of him) may choke for thirst before his lordship shall have the drippings of our tap, unless he can send the ready-cash; though I fancy, as that is the case, we shall not have him for a customer.

But the river is near at hand, and most excellent pump-water (as any in London) behind his own house;
wine,

68 THE MENTAL

wine, beer, cyder, and spirits, I am told, breed a thousand disorders: pure, simple water, is a charming liquor for my lord: and so my lord, my kind service to you—and then drinks off a full quart of her own stout at a draught; still crying, No courtiers for us! none of your lord's promises for our house; my husband's name is ready-money.

His lordship luckily, you see, is not in the least uneasy; and as long as he can get credit on the appearance of his ribbon and star among strangers, he will still keep it up, as they call it: he little feels his misfortune I'm sure; for observe, he is looking through a silversmith's shop window, and smiling to see his arms, coronet, and supporters, rubbed out of the plates and dishes, with which he once made such a pompous

OPTICIAN. 69

pompous appearance: nay, he swears, that every man of honour ought to encourage the products and manufactures of his own country; and so eats off the handy-work of Staffordshire, blessing himself that things are no worse! And being asked how he slept of nights, he laughs, and says, Why, faith, I sleep well, very well! but I wonder how my creditors sleep! — So we will write him down *insensible*, my Achilles, if you will, and adjourn our future observations till to-morrow: I know your punctuality, and you are no stranger to mine; there is never a minute's difference between us, so mutual are our inclinations! Adieu till to-morrow.

CH A P.

C H A P. VI.

OUR weather is too serene this morning to lose a moment in reasoning, my Achilles! therefore pray take your glass, and at once tell me what you think of that gentleman in green and gold, who, in the china-shop under us, is asking the price of the most costly jarrs, vases, bronzes, mandarins, and the Lord knows what. Would not any one take him for a man of fortune? His coat seems to command a kind of respect; and he would be very angry if they did not pay it to him: 'till they know who he is, they are afraid of being backward in respect to him: but observe, as he steps out of the chariot they whisper the servant behind, (properly, my Achilles! by which I would mean, they first give him a shilling)

shilling) and find out, that he is not the man he would pass for.

Observe, he does not perceive that his credit is broke at once in that quarter, for as he cheapens any, and talks where they are to be sent, they cry, they are very sorry, but a gentleman, above a week since, fixed his eye on those very things, and seemed to like them; and therefore, till he gives his answer, they can't well refuse obedience to him, because he is an intimate acquaintance and friend of the family. The simple fellow, till he finds the whole shop engaged in this manner, does not immediately see that he is got into the wrong box, as it is commonly called, and almost to the last, imagines his hired equipage for the day will pass, and that his man behind is so attached to him as not to tell the secret.

Though

72 THE MENTAL

Though I do not care to take up too much of your time in a proper description of him, yet he is what we generally, though falsely, call, about this town, a *gentleman*. The man was bred well, and passed thro' a collegiate education with tolerable respect and honour; but having unluckily read a maxim of dean Swift's, that "the race-horse is strong enough to carry a pack, but that he will not," he immediately quitted all thoughts of traffic, called tradesmen *Bourgeois* and *Canaille*, frequented theatres and gaming-tables, and is now a sharper for the common necessities of life.

But pray, (only that it is quite losing time on such a wretch) take the glass, and satisfy your own curiosity. Not I, says Achilles! I find you so exact in your pictures, that I have no occasion, when you
chuse

chuse to begin descriptions yourself first: when I appeal to you, it is quite another affair; and this I do now to be informed who that lady is, marching along to prayers, with a book carried before her, and a cushion, for it certainly indicates nothing else: she is certainly a woman of a thousand; for, at this time of day, ladies, even at her age, are not so very religious.

Ha, ha, ha; why, my Achilles! I must laugh out, she is, or has been, the most arrant prostitute, in the district of that church where she is bending her course to: but it is the fashion now to be penitent and have a marked character; that of a methodist: She calls herself, in common conversation, an abandoned wretch: and the bait is swallowed by every other fool that hears her.

VOL. II.

E

Why,

Why, what a world we live in, says Achilles! I was in hopes religion kept clear of hypocrisy; but I find it now in a second instance. A second, says Chiron! aye, in a thousand, if you would use your own eyes, and not depend on those of others: The banker's clerk, and this lady, are but paltry proofs of what I could advance: Would you think, and I could prove it if put to the push, that half the reverend divines (if one may judge by their avarice, fraud, rapine, lust of power, and temporal views of every kind) care as little about the after-life; which shews them to be unbelievers, as they take pains about the enjoyment of the present: it is to dress, eat delicate food, drink precious wines, and shew splendid equipages, that they seek preferment; and not as you vainly and foolishly

OPTICIAN. 75

foolishly think, (nay, indeed, I ought to forgive you, as I once thought the same) to distribute alms, help the fatherless and poor to their right, comfort the widow, and dry up the tears of the orphan and the stranger.

These were once modish customs; but at present so very antiquated and obsolete, that give yourself the trouble to bend your eyes towards, that lofty building in the shape of a cross, near a city famous for a foundation, equal in income and magnificence, to a royal one, and tell me what you see: I'll change the glasses; for I can draw in objects of any distance, as you perceived the first day we met, when you saw your own country fairly an island, and said to yourself, what a glorious kingdom that might be, surrounded thus by the sea, could

we be faithful to each other, and never meddle or make with the affairs of the Continent. Have you forgot this circumstance, my Achilles?

No, really, he answered with some small degree of warmth; I love and admire the situation of my country too well, ever to forget so pleasing and particular a circumstance. The trade, the navigation, the imports and exports, are amazing! Can any one ever think of comparing Holland with us, in either their natural or artificial state? A country, as Lord Bolingbroke well observes, that consists in nothing but a parcel of salt marshes, hardly gained upon the sea, and scarcely defended from it. But to the point: Your glass, I see, does wonders; for I am at once fifty miles from London, to the west; and the intermediate

intermediate country looks like a map painted according to the foil, in different, but proper colours.

Well, says Chiron, only tell me what you see ; deceive me not, and you cannot deceive yourself : I believe you will there find something worthy your notice and attention ; and yet, when you know the whole, I further prophecy that you will laugh most heartily at the greatest mock that ever was put on hospitality, charity, and open benevolence.

I wish you had not, in some measure, forestalled my comments on what I see, for I perceive something I already dislike ; for the people in general who eat and drink at the gate, seem also, at this distance, to pay for it, contrary to all rules and laws of Christian charity and benevolence. Why, truly, you have

78 THE MENTAL

hit the case: they do pay for what they have, and very handsomely, though not fairly, too; for you see silver given for common bread and small beer, though the person who receives it never puts it into his own pocket, but accounts with his superior, who visits it once a year.

In brief, I will tell you the whole: It was originally a religious house, in those days, which, out of derision, are called *Popish* days, but were the best days for the poor, the traveller, and the afflicted; there was a certain portion of the income set apart for relieving the stranger, (for inns at that time of day were not known) with all which might be necessary in a plain way for his subsistence on his journey, either of food, of drink, of lodging, or medicinal care.

But

But the allowance so set apart, now goes to increase the superior's revenue, who generally wants it not, by means of pluralities in the church; and so the whole benevolence consists, at present, in a few quarts of small beer and some slices of bread; which, observe me, are not given to those who want it, desire, or deserve it, but to holiday citizens, who are travelling that way like people of fashion, and think they must not quit the country, I mean that part of it, without tasting the remains of old popish generosity.

What a farce it is now! The disposer of these trifles, if twenty itinerants, that wanted it, passed by, would drive them from the door, and call them sturdy beggars; but the moment a coach arrives, see how low he bows! with what pleasure he

80 THE MENTAL

distributes the wretched remains of royal generosity, (for I think it was founded by a King of England) and would be sorry he did not sell it dearer by 50 *per Cent.* than any confectioner does his diet bread, or Arthur's their cheapest draught. It is no small, and of course, no bad addition, to his master's income; who, poor man, is so ill-provided for as to lack every thing, and its consequence, respect: But when I say he lacks, it is not that he will ever die for want of what he has, but what he has not.

That last expression puts me in mind of what a certain arch wag wrote, by way of epitaph, on a late known justice, whose name I need not inform you, as it appears in the rhyme, and speaks for itself, more than I need say on the occasion.

Here

*Here lie the bones of Sir John Lad,
Who dy'd for want of what he had.*

The word bones pleases me, as he was very thin of person, which was rather owing to his own penury than his original make.

But this affair of the mock charity has vext me so, that I declare I can hardly bear to think on it. I thought the poor were still refreshed there, as I saw so many enter; and though I perceived they came away displeased, little did I think it was owing to their not having been relieved, but relieved in a poor scanty manner.

Oh, quite the contrary, says Chiron; because they want it they have it not: the very fellow who disposes of it, if he does give away any thing gratis, in imitation of

82 THE MENTAL

the master, he likewise has his favourites; and it is a million to one, if the hungry or thirsty person gets his share of what is given: nay, what is more, but it is true, and pity 'tis it is true, the very number of pensioners are reduced, and rooms kept empty, merely to increase the pay and income of their lordly superior. He is a protestant; but as much as he rails at the church of Rome, does not dislike their foundation, no more than half the fellows of colleges in O—d or C——e.

But what a fog has arisen! I declare I can scarce discover the objects in the church-yard below, or the streets leading to it. You see how short all human schemes and pleasures are, even to the next moment, much less the ensuing hour: We had proposed great things you know to-day; how ridiculous is it

my Achilles, for man to call, or think, any thing a certainty, when life is at best a contradiction and uncertainty.

But we will reason of these things in the evening: The abuse of charity is a most copious subject; too much so for us to settle in the compass we can allot: Man! his life, says Shakespear, *is no more than to say, one*; and yet we go on, you see, adding field to field, house to house, and garden to garden, as though we were, indeed, immortal; scarce a spire, a tower, or steeple under us, but will furnish matter for reflection and contemplation. Vestry dinners are a field for inspection; these I will begin on; and only inform you, from my own knowlege, that where a meeting is had to give a dinner of ten shillings to the poor, the rich, or those at least who need

84 THE MENTAL

it not, have spent twice that sum. They cry, 'tis all for the poor; aye, they say well, for the rich are poor in heart; and of such are composed half the justices of London and Middlesex, half the commissioners of land-tax, half the common parish-officers, and all the church-wardens.

Many of these things must be delivered in a whisper, said Chiron; for as we go down stairs, they are often crowded with the very subjects of our conversation, and objects of our contempt, who, not content with the common methods of getting appetites, to eat up the poor's just rights, such as bitters, drams, morning whets, &c. &c. *in secula seculorum*; but they even mount up to this height, and call it, most audaciously, whetting their stomachs.

Come,

OPTICIAN. 85

Come, let us depart, or we shall be observed and prevented.

CHAP. VII.

WHAT a bustle and racket people in this life, men, women, and all, make about rank and title, precedence, respect, and what not! See there, says Chiron, that coffin-maker is laughing, swearing, and smoaking, over the last mansion-house of the late duke of ****, who would not have admitted a tradesman, particularly a mechanic, within a mile of his presence.

Turn your eyes that way a little, and you will see the very house his grace lived and died in : You think, with your bare eye only, that the family are all dejected : Quite otherwise ! they never were so chearful : See how busy they all are blazoning
his

86 THE MENTAL

his arms for the escutcheons : and pray take notice also, how assiduous the widow is in fitting her weeds.

Come, says she, a dutchess, and a good jointure, under thirty, is no bad lure for the mall, whenever decency will permit me to walk there : My inclinations are in the Park already, and I will go, in spite of the world, the moment it is dark, though 'tis only to hear privately what the gay world say of me and my deceased lord—hang him ! I suffered enough the few years I lived with him, and deserved better pay than the jointure I possess—but it will do ! And thus you see she talks soliloquies, for days together, in presence of her most silent, and certain friend and flatterer, the glass.

It

It would be worth while to look through that house entirely, and see how little they are what they seem, on such an occasion. *The suits of woe*, as Hamlet says, are soon robes of gladness; for my lady's woman, who is to have a pretty handsome legacy when the will is declared, already has had a pair of false teeth put in by the most ingenious Mr. L—y, and swears she will hold up her head now, for that she is a fortune.

The chaplain, you see now, who used to flink into her apartment for the emoluments of tea, coffee, chocolate, wine, plumb-cake, and all the good circumstances of an house-keeper's room, now sends a card to her first, and talks of paying his duty, his respects, or at least his compliments to her, having something to impart of consequence.

What

88 THE MENTAL

What do you think this very consequential affair is, my Achilles ?

Why, love, to be sure, answered he. But observe, says Chiron, he now has found out that she is a person of family, and should have known it before, had he ever seen her name properly spelt ; for the difference of a letter, or a syllable, in a name, either ranks you with the greatest, or sets you with the dregs even of the vulgar : why, I have known an act of p——t, at a great expence, be obtained, to take off a single syllable before now. 'Tis a strange world, indeed ! And as to arms and heraldry, and all that stuff, why, whole estates have been sunk in litigation, whether the family had a right to a *Tre-foil* or a *cinque-foil*.

Nay, I declare, says Achilles, I have known a duel fought, and to the truth too ; insomuch, that one
of

of the parties has been forced to ask his life, because truly one of the champions gave his servant orders to have three *Flowers de Lis* on his left arm, which was only the privilege of the elder branch of that family. The footman was not sorry he lost the badge of honour, as his master called it; for he declared he would not have staid a month in his house to wear so shabby, and so ridiculous a stamp of family pride and vanity. But since we are got upon the subject, suppose we turn our eyes a little towards that very deserted building under us; there, there; I mean in Doctors - Commons; which is in fact, the very shop and warehouse of feathers and follies.—What do you see there? Don't lift up your hands so! The sight, I warrant, is common enough every day, though for want of knowing it to be so, it may

90 THE MENTAL

may appear so particular to you now: Come, pr'ythee impart.

Why, I see a whole family in mourning too, busy with a man there, who seems, by the keys he carries, and the many wooden presses he opens, to be the chief person in the office. Why, he is so, said Chiron! but pray what do you think is their business? No doubt, says Achilles, as they seem of good family, to complain of some people, who may have broke in on their right, in relation to arms, crest, supporters, or the like.

Ha, ha, ha! Well; when shall I see you at the head of that knowledge I am aiming to give you! Why, you never were half so mistaken: they are very low and paltry people, and having got a large prize in the lottery, would now fain set up an equipage, but
are

are puzzled about arms. But they need not be puzzled long ! Believe me, money runs in such sparing streams through that office there, that they will soon find them arms, if proper fees are paid for them. He asks their name ; and finding it to be the same of a very noble family in this kingdom, he makes not the least doubt of tacking them to the head of that noble family ; and says, that if any one disputes it, I'll defend you : But adds, there must be a little more money paid, because your family is truly noble.

You see how readily they pay the cash : The very people, who a week ago would have turned their shirts to save washing, and spunged for a dinner at their enemies hands, now throw away a cool hundred pounds, to make themselves ridiculously conspicuous ; for whoever sees the
arms,

92 THE MENTAL

arms, will doubtless laugh; for the father of this very family was hanged for forgery; and his wife, the mother, transported for a burglary: however, they think, by going a few miles out of town, and giving their single house a name, in imitation of a *seat*, that it will either be forgot, or perhaps never known. But they are mistaken; for the same news-paper which mentions their leaving town with a grand retinue for their country seat, unluckily is read by the parson of the parish, who recollects how they came by their rank and family; and, like a true divine, tells it to the 'squire, because the 'squire pays him more tythe, and has more children to christen.

Come, hang it, says Chiron! let us turn our eyes to something better; I am tired of the vanities,
more

more than the vices, of mankind ! I must, says Achilles, indulge myself in remarking one person more, who enters the same place seemingly on another errand ; and yet I may be mistaken : pray tell me, to prevent my exposing myself, what his business there can be, so dejected, so shabby, and, no doubt, so penniless ?

Why, for once, says Chiron, I'll indulge you, but had rather have your own guesses, even tho' they fall short of the mark : By aiming at several things, some must hit ; but I will prevent you shooting the arrow of your judgment in vain here, because indeed the case is something particular.

He has much of the high French blood in him ; and though he has the best coat of arms in England, he has scarce a coat to his back : His
pride

94 THE MENTAL

pride and poverty are amazing ! He will starve nine days to subscribe to a paltry book, that his name may appear in print on the list, and set the world talking, that he is of the noble family of the *Beaumonts*.

Trade is mechanical ! He would not be seen in a shop for the two Indies, and the unknown advantages and emoluments of the North-West Passage ; but he will privately steal even such trifles as pens, ink, paper, snuff, and what not ; all which he thinks becomes him, on account of his superior blood ; for was it known, says he, it would not be believed that a man of my family would commit a theft, and therefore would kindly interpret it into absence of mind.

But it once happened otherwise, and he was very severely caned in private, because his friends thought

a public example might have made him destroy himself; and they wanted him to live, that they might always tell the story: he thinks it a private one, but indeed it is public enough; and only wants to be introduced on the stage, in the mouth of a G—k, to make it immortal.

There is scarce in life so troublesome a companion as a poor and proud man of family! Talk to him of learning, he runs it all down, and swears, no author was ever any other than an upstart: touch him on fortune, estate, capital, house, gardens, and plantations, he will immediately answer, Pshaw! the fellow is of yesterday, and never had an ancestor in the field; for observe, the military profession is ever held the highest by these gentlemen,

96 THE MENTAL

men, because crowned heads are soldiers often.

But I could tell all these fine gentlemen of the blade, that a soldier and a butcher vary very little; that maroding is little better than thieving; and raising contributions, not a farthing more honourable than raising the wind, as highwaymen call it, on Bagshot-Heath or Shuter's-Hill; pray where is the difference? one pleads military orders, the other the orders of nature and necessity, and gives you to understand, that the great rob more in one hour, though not so openly, than he in a whole year; robbers in revenue, excise, honour, conscience, law, physic, and what not! But pr'ythee let us quit the place and the subject; for if there are a set of people, to me, and in my eye, more ridiculous than others,

it

it is those who are *coat-mad*, without having a second pair of breeches perhaps.

'Tis virtue only, good behaviour, sincere friendship, benevolence, goodness of heart, complacency of mind, pity for human frailties, and the like, which give honour beyond what these boobies can bestow, tho' they have the impudence to call themselves *Kings*; at least one of them: it is out of their power to enoble cowards or knaves, though I know they pretend to it.

However, my Achilles! be sure of one thing, that the coat and crest which are not worn and obtained with honour and reputation, immediately becomes your disgrace: and it would be well for some noble peers, and lofty commoners, of this kingdom, if greater blots were not in their escutcheons, than some-

98 THE MENTAL

times marrying their inferior, as she is often falsely called, or getting an honest livelihood by trade and industry.

But the day is over-cast a little: if it increases, which I suspect it will, our business of observation is at an end: However, you pay such compliments to my knowledge, (which in general you have found very exact) that our glass grows almost useless, and scarce worth the toil or trouble of bringing up to such an height: But I shall, I believe, for the future, exercise you a little more with it than I have done; and, by holding my tongue entirely for a while, oblige you to have recourse to it on all occasions, till you grow perfect in this labyrinth of a study: A labyrinth indeed! And I agree with Mr. Addison, that 'tis difficult (truly so)

*To see with how much art the wind-
ings run,
And where the regular confusion
ends.*

'Tis indeed a regular confusion ! But from confusion, order may arise, if not to themselves, to us : It may, for I already perceive you know how to sift their follies and their vanities, and extract wisdom from caprice, as chemists do salutary medicine from the most noxious poisons.

But now, off hand, and 'tis the last I will trouble you with : What think you of the old lady below, who is hawling her young female apprentice before a justice for misbehaviour and neglect of business ? See how the girl weeps ! hear how she moans ! The old lady exults ;

F 2

and,

and, no doubt, you think her hardly used : but believe me, my Achilles, the whole quarrel is, because the girl has still such fixt notions of virtue, modesty, chastity, and true religion, that she cannot bring herself to relish the carrying linen or lace to young gentlemens chambers, though her cruel mistress insists on it ; and though she pretends all that proper regard for her pupil, yet, privately, she would sell her at the market price.

For since the many additional regiments up and down this country, girls come more frequently to the great mart of London : what one corps of officers leaves undone, the next does ; and so the towns and villages of England are ransacked of beauty and innocence, to supply this all-voracious capital.

I wish to see your scheme set on foot, said Achilles, for saving the unfortunate female race; at least, from further perdition. I declare, as the evening is coming on, I discern through your glass whole troops of them preparing for the hour of destruction: See there how they dress themselves; even the modest ones, for night revels and assemblies of pleasure. They little recollect, that the sacrifices of the ancient heathens, were always most adorned with flowers and garlands; and that the more gay their life is, the nearer, like them, they are all approaching destruction. But more of this in private.

C H A P. VIII.

PERSONS who always live in state and grandeur, have no real knowlege of human life ; they often think they have, and are as often mistaken. It is said of Dean Swift (I should rather say the immortal Dean Swift) that he would often travel in a waggon, the better to judge of nature, and the people's humours: He well knew the farce and folly of state, and was doubtless tired of it.

Such beastly animals as those under our eyes there, would call this keeping low company: I know they would: they are only for a carpet, lighted tapers, and a dining-room floor: and what do they see or learn there? treachery, my Achilles! even in the very little,
and

and very trivial affairs, of cards and conversation.

Do I thank a shop-keeper for his seeming and pretended humility while I am laying out ready-money with him? Be in his debt a few weeks beyond the reasonable time, and that smiling face, and oily tongue, at once grow rough and lowering! While you are ordering his goods, he wants no money, but cries, your custom, good and worthy Sir, is all I am thinking of: and if you are better dressed than ordinary, he will add, the *honour of your custom*: But in a few days he has unforeseen demands, is obliged to make up a sum, is very uneasy at pressing his best friends, but must have his money.

To me, and according to my foolish, but honourable way of judging, this is little better than

crying, *stand and deliver*, with a cocked pistol in each hand: and I own it grieves me every execution day, to see poor unfortunate wretches going to be hanged for trifles of a hat, shirt, or perhaps a loaf or two of bread, when trustees, guardians, nay, even parents, continue robbing for thousands, and all within the verge of the laws. There is one before us now; there, I say, in the spruce chariot: his history is so very particular, that I must give it to you, but in the fewest words I can, lest we lose better observations.

He was originally a footman, or rather, footboy, to a very eminent barrister of the Temple; and, having often heard him say, that he, the counsellor, never throve till he got to be a trustee, the young fellow set about studying that part of
the

the law, which made him master of wills, settlements, mortgages, &c. &c. and after some years close application, he slipped off his livery, and at once entered the lists of a chamber-practitioner and conveyancer.

Many shrugs of the shoulders, many whispers, and many sneers, he stood the brunt of from his brethren of the quill; and at last, by perseverance, got tolerably forward; insomuch, that he bought, or rather got, a chariot from a gentleman by way of pledge, (having lent some money on it, which he well knew would never be paid) he jobbed a pair of horses now and then, and so became at once a man of fashion, of consequence in the profession, and of rank, in course; which chariots are too apt to give.

106 THE MENTAL

By this common trap; he got a girl of fortune, enlarged his way of life, gave banquets at noon, drums at night, and, in short, took a capital house near the court, which stamp'd him at once the man of eminence and fashion; for the world seldom find fault where there are plentiful tables, and wine in abundance. By these common steps, he arrived so close to the best estates in the kingdom, that I do believe there is scarce a great family now in England, who has not been in a closet with him. And to come to the point in hand, he is trustee and guardian to half the minors of the premier families of this nation. But no more of him; he has a ministerial income, I assure you, and silences much calumny, by banquets and entertainments.

Now,

Now, to change the scene, take away the glass from your eye, and tell me what you think of the lady in that street there, dressed as melancholy as a mercy-begging candidate for an alms-house, and humble, you see, to a degree of meanness.

Why, she certainly is humble ; and however she may have exulted and insulted, in the former part of life, she is, or indeed I should rather say, appears to be sorry for what she has done ; if ever, as I said before, she has been insolent.

Ha, ha, ha ; if ever she has been ! Why, she is now the most arrogant, proud, vain, and pert woman living : but the person she has met, is a director of a public company, and she has views there of profit to herself and family : but with all that seeming humility and plain-

of dress, I assure you, she only plays the part within the city walls; for, at the other end of the town, she has cloaths fit for a dutchess, and jewels of the first water: She passes there for a woman of fashion and quality: In the city, she is the most obliged, most devoted, and most humble servant of every little tradesman, who knows one, that knows another, who married even the god-daughter of his honour, the director.

She calls this in her very coarse way, knowing which side her bread is buttered on: for you will see very soon, that one of her own dependents will meet her; and then observe the difference of her behaviour. Hark! you may even hear her shrill tongue at this distance! She is chiding her dependent cousin and hanger-on, for not being prof-

prosperous, and scarce gives her a civil word: I know, says she, you might have done well; your parents gave you a very good education; I have no pity for you: I suppose some idle fellow or other has had all your ready-money for secret services, or you could not want such a trifle as a guinea; I assure you, if I had a thousand, you should not have one.

Work as I have done, and still do: see my fingers ends; here — What, you must have your tea twice a day too, no doubt: I warrant you! your reverend father knew no such luxury; but often drank his glass of home-brewed table beer, to my knowlege, to save such extravagance, as I know you have practised, and every little low wretch about this vile metropolis: If you deserved pity I would give you that; but

110 THE MENTAL

but I know you do not; and so, trollop, out of my sight.

I stand reproved, said Achilles! and fear I shall never get to the top of philosophy's school, though I pretend to be a scholar there! But suppose, for shortness, I take every thing by contraries, should not I be near the mark? For hitherto, every person's heart has been contrary to their features, and their words have bely'd their looks most constantly.

Why, though in general, said Chiron, that plan might answer, yet there are great exceptions; and once mistaking a virtuous and good man for a bad one, would ruin you for ever; I mean as a man of judgment and knowledge in these abstract sciences. No; if you will compare things well together, you may judge of the many by one: there are duplicates of every one; and

OPTICIAN. III

and tho' there are degrees in villainy, it is sufficient for your purpose to know such a man to be bad, as all you have to do is to avoid him.

But come—there goes a serious citizen and alderman along that narrow street; you see he stops twice to give an old woman charity: perhaps you think him so; but he is the very reverse of it; for he at this instant is receiver of a public hospital and charity, and has embezzled near half their weekly pay: But he thinks he does wonders, and makes his peace with heaven, by thus giving a few farthings in an open and ostentatious way, that (as the scripture says) he *may be seen of men*.

He is not the only man, believe me, my Achilles, who has fattened on the poor; nay, drove over them, almost, as they walked along, with

112 THE MENTAL

a chariot of their own : I mean, paid for with their money. I so unluckily, for my own part, tack ideas to names, that I hardly ever hear the word steward, pay-master, receiver, treasurer, or cashier, mentioned, but I immediately think him a cheat ; aye, in the very utmost sense of things too. But now turn your eyes this way. What do you see ? Be quick, or he vanishes.

I see, says Achilles, a young gentleman, so assiduous in his business, that he steps into a common pastry-cook's shop to eat something, lest he should neglect his time, and master's business. And you are sure of your man, says Chiron, are not you ? What think you of the very reverse now ?

He slunk away from his master's compting-house without a dinner, because it was post night, and
he

he expected to be employed towards the evening, which would have hindered him the fight of a new play, the first night too of all others! He calls himself a buck; and he is one in this sense, that he is very wild and mischievous: He thinks, to be spoke to by a player, man or woman, is a much greater honour than by his master or mistress, tho' this year they are the first quality of the city, by his being Lord Mayor.

We will watch him to the very theatre, if you will: See how happy he grows the instant he gets among them behind the scenes: They flatter him too on his abilities for the stage: and to tell you the truth, he intends to be an hero there, at a proper time, and wear the buskin. All in good time, my Achilles! his ruin and dead-warrant are sealed,
by

114 THE MENTAL

by the smiles of that actress in green and silver: He loves her; she flatters his voice, his genius, his memory, his person, and what not!

At home, he hears of no excellence which he has, but that of punctuality and exactness in keeping his books. Damn them, says he, I laugh at all that; 'tis for mechanicks. There are at least a thousand, aye, twenty thousand, book-keepers, and clerks, in London, but the duce of two good players; and no doubt I shall be the second; and what signifies it? I shall, by this means, be debarred a few tea-drinking companions with grave faces: Faith! I had rather give a loose to pleasure, and follow my own inclinations; and I will. His abilities are flattered like the world's in general, just as long as his fortune holds: he is impatient

to

to get rid of it, that he may have the better plea not to enter trade, by saying, he has no capital. Thus he goes on, giving rings, baubles, trinkets, &c. to women actors, and banquets to men actors, till, in short, he has not one single guinea left; and so is obliged to begin the new trade.

Being a compulsion, he no longer enjoys the idea he once did; and having tried the part of Pyrrhus, and failed in it, is now a most miserable dependent. I am speaking of a year or two hence: The very people of the same profession, who so flattered and defended him on trial, now are the first to make parties and cabals against him: He little thought of this: He becomes wretched; grows dejected; turns stroller; and, in a few years, hangs himself; still looking back on honest trade,

as

116 THE MENTAL

as Adam and Eve did on lost Paradise, and giving a sigh to no purpose, under a shower of misfortunes.

It certainly must be a love for women, and passion for dress, which first tempts young gentlemen thus to quit certainties to follow shadows, says Achilles ; it can't be otherwise ; for examine them all round the country, and you will trace them all home to some honest trade or profession : but genius cannot be opposed ; nor do I think the disappointed, in this part of life, are so very miserable, as we make, and imagine them : I know they laugh, they sing, and, among themselves, enjoy themselves, perhaps more, than the persons who laugh at them.

Believe me, in general, mankind are seldom so happy, or miserable,

OPTICIAN. 117

as the world make them, or would have them to be: our own pride makes us saddle them with strange scenes of both, which I have mentioned. When the world are going down-hill, we starve them immediately, and don't allow them even that which they have; for these starved people, who are kindly given up to providence, look pretty well for years afterwards: and, on the other hand, when people are flourishing, then we give them a lift indeed: the ladder then can't be too high, nor have too many rounds to it: then they are wise, are valiant, are prudent, kind, benevolent, and I know not what!

But of this anon: we must obey our summons for the evening: Adieu till then; for I shall be old-fashioned enough, because it's a saint's day,
to

118 THE MENTAL

to go to prayers below, and say, according to my friend Milton,

*Let the pealing organ blow,
To the well-tun'd quire below —*

C H A P. IX.

HOW tedious and wearisome a life of constant pleasure must be! I querè whether a life of pain is not, in the long run, more eligible! For in the latter estate things grow familiar; but in the former, 'tis otherwise. It is a maxim I know of some great man, and am sure he thought right, that a reflection on past pleasure generally gives a man pain; but the recollection of former pain, always gives pleasure.

I believe you, says Achilles, very sincerely; for I am sure I hate to look back on the minutes, the hours,

hours, the days, the weeks, the months, nay, the years, I have dissipated in trifles and follies, when first I knew this confounded metropolis: I do assure you, five years of my life, were spent at that time, in such a vain and idle dream, that I have tore it out of my book, or diary, and am ashamed to think there ever was such an idiot as myself: and that ever such precious time was so ill spent.

May I expect your pardon, if I give you some history of myself? I think I may; at least I'll venture your animadversion, because I know the account will go no farther, but rest in your own bosom; and I believe we should all be wiser, could we any way excuse the sincerity of our confidant: But fearing to own our follies, lest they should be declared, we smother things to our
OWN

own disadvantage, when concealed; which, revealed, might be of infinite advantage in our future conduct thro' life.

I came to town, you must know, with full instructions from friends and parents, as is the custom; and which, too often, by being often inculcated, lose their effect, to learn every thing: But the profession in view was the barr! Yet general knowledge being the requisite, I was at certain hours to learn the mathematics, under the royal master of Christ's hospital, (then the most noted in that way) and for that purpose, was introduced to him as a friend, by a friend; that being an adult, I was not to be treated in the common manner of boyish pupils, but get into the marrow of things at once.

I was soon happy in a mistake of my friends; for I found my preceptor as willing to connive at my idleness, as I was at his breach of duty; insomuch, that after the common ceremonies were past, of how d'ye, and how d'ye, what weather is it, and the like, I was at free liberty to go where I pleased, which, you may imagine, was to some rendezvous of pleasure.

The reigning amusement of the young bucks of London, then, was dancing, at different corners of the town: And do you know, that I kept a regular calendar of all the particular days the several city companies set apart for that amusement, and prepared my limbs for them as regularly as your common-councilmen do their stomachs for the annual feast of their own society and brotherhood.

I fear, by your looks, that I stand corrected already, though 'tis only the onset of my history ; but I must go on ; and really I am the reverse of the common proverb of

Vivere bis vitâ posse priore frui ;

which, I think, is thus very well translated by honest old Colley Cibber —

*When years no more of active life
retain,*

*'Tis second life to lead them o'er
again.*

For in truth, I dread the recollection, and only repeat it with your permission, to prove to you, that by owning it, I pretty plainly convince you, that I have seen my follies and escap'd the storm.

I,

I, at that time of day, thought there was more beauty, harmony, poetry, music, and what not, in an ill-spelt letter from a young dancing partner, than ever I have known since in the most refined epistles of Mr. Pope, Mr. Gay, or even the immortal Swift. An appointment to meet at any private and particular place, has a pleasure I shall never feel again : the very street seemed joyous ; and I always thought that I walked on feathers, when I clamber'd up stairs (though ever so many) to get to the proper apartment.

A sigh, a whisper, a paltry present of a ribbon, though ever so greasy, for her hair, was at once inestimable ; and I was then above accepting any valuable favour, of a watch, or ring, though often in my power, because, like a fool, or

in other words, a lover, I was to value the giver, not for the sake of the gift, but the person it came from! Thus have I accepted of an odd glove, a bodkin, a garter, and the like: but a buskin once drawn out warm from the bosom of my Dulcinia, was very near the occasion of my running mad; for I run the hazard of twenty duels, by boasting of it in all the parties of pleasure I engaged in.

What a simpleton you think me! but what a much greater I think myself! Well, scanty as my purse was, I was the cull on every party of diversion, whether to theatres, or public gardens, operas, or masquerades; all business was at an end! excuses were easily found on both the preceptor's and pupil's side, why I did not attend lectures; and it has gone so far once or twice,

as to have an apothecary sent for (who was in the secret) to make believe I was ill and in danger, tho' only to avoid one evening's lecture, that I might dance safely and securely till the next morning.

At my chambers (for I had then very proper ones for a student) were various tricks practised, to blind, not only the old folks, but all my acquaintance : I had a bag-wig kept at each end of the town, with white stockings, red-heel'd pumps, and all the apparatus of a true country-dancer : But I never failed leaving chambers in my student's gown, and always put a ticket in at my door, *gone to Westminster*.

When I put on the bar-robe, I was forced to encrease my finesse a little ; and many a sham brief have I had delivered by a proper young fellow for the purpose, who repre-

sented an attorney, or his clerk, very well, and who brought me a guinea or two of my own money: Even my cronies and intimates believed this! And I declare I practised the scheme so long, that I almost believed it myself.

Well; while I was supposed to be at Westminster, taking notes, and making remarks, I was footing to cross-partners at Stationers-hall, the Clothworkers, Ironmongers, Cheesemongers, or some of the mongril breed of that villainous city: I was bowing to beauty, and not power; and a taylor's daughter has made me more diligent to get a coach for her, than if a chief justice had asked the favour on being overthrown, or a wheel of his chariot coming off—Interest and love operate very differently on juvenile minds.

Thus

Thus I lived, strolling from one end of the town to the other, and gathering the names, families, and fortunes, of half the girls in London: but what gave me most uneasiness, and what at first set me against continuing thus in folly, was, making my addresses to one of these partners of mine, and meeting a sharp rebuff, saying, What, a lady can't give a fool her hand in a dance, but he must have the assurance to expect her heart also!

Observe, my good friend, that I had made up new cloaths twice to attend this lady; and after variety of coaching and dancing, and losing as much time as would have made, properly employed, a tolerable lawyer, this unkind lady married, to my great disgrace, a wealthy tallow-chandler, who never learnt to dance in all his life.

128 THE MENTAL

But my follies did not end here ! for though I took a disgust to dancing, owing to this lady's treatment, I fell into a worse Charybdis ; for now I took a turn to concerts, and to play myself at best a *Rippiano*. To perform this, I was forced, for near a year, to rise with the lark, and strum away in a back garret that no body might hear me, till I was able to exhibit a minuet to the young ladies in the parlour. By degrees I gathered boldness ; and assure you, was impudent enough at the Devil-tavern, to undertake playing an approbation-piece, to qualify me for a musical member of that famous society.

I no sooner was introduced as a performer, but immediately I began ; and was vain enough to think all the ladies of the gallery there were intent on me alone ; and as it

was

was impossible for them to hear my particular notes, I make no doubt but many of the ingenious Mr. Brown's quavers and semi-demi quavers, past for mine.

I was now so bewitched to this new study, that I often went in disguise, and performed in the orchestra of both play-houses, to get perfect in my favourite study. What a mean rascal, say you? Aye; and was I to recount the mean things I was a witness of among that honourable society of Apollo, you would indeed say worse of me: I have known a Cremona gentleman of the first rank, begilded like a summer flie, get under the stage, and in some dark corner there, eat a bone of mutton, which had been wrapped up in his pocket all that day.

A second has taken a large onion from his fob, (not so much for privacy there, as to make believe he had a watch) and rubbing it on a hard biscuit, eat it with great glee, swearing all the time he was a gentleman, and a genius, and the devil take all mechanics and tradesmen. This was the company I kept to get master of my pleasure; but privately, my scheme was to win some lady's heart this way, tho' I failed in the dancing plan.

Well, after three or four years infinite pains and expence, to touch the ears of my fair auditors, I boldly attacked one, who had, in private and public, admired my solos and sonatas: but I was again mistaken; for she turned a deaf ear; and gave it out that I was a convenient friend, because on a pinch, if there was a

proper company, I could fiddle a country-dance well enough.

Thus went away many years of my youth ; I am ashamed to say how many : these rebuffs, joined to some others I need not mention, made me determine to quit pleasure. But though I deserted the soft sports, I undertook others, which, tho' masculine, and among men, were not less ridiculous. I am ashamed almost to tell you ; and yet I must, since I am on the plan of imparting the very inmost secrets of my heart.

You must know, having a turn for harmony still, I made myself a member of a ringing-club ; and not having always churches at our service, and complaints being often made that we disturbed the parish and neighbourhood, we used to ring

hand-bells in private rooms of public-houses.

Tired of this, we then were great watermen, and every man had his proper dress: To be sure our pleasure was not small, when we passed London, and touched at some Thames-side tavern, where everybody came to the window to survey us: The praises of passengers who went along-side of us, and flattery of watermen in general, made us as happy for a while, and intoxicated us as much, as love does a green-sickness virgin, or honours do such weak minds as his grace of ****, or the silly countess of ****.

Will you believe me, that I had not done with folly yet, for I grew a great fancier of flowers, and frequented all the florists clubs within ten miles of London; I have been steward of one of their annual feasts,
and

and have been dressed up with roses like a beast for a Roman sacrifice. This lasted at least a year; and meeting a slight, as in the dancing and fiddling scheme, I changed my amusement, and, for the last folly, turned a shell and butterfly fancier. I excelled so greatly in this, that I was admitted a fellow of that royal building there, not far from the Temple; and to merit their future favours, have followed a fly through three counties, every night encamping as the insect rested, and pursuing him next day with the eagerness of a Spanish lover.

Thus ends the history of a vain, idle, and silly student of the law, as was intended by stern parents. I will dwell no longer on the subject, but proceed to business as fast as you please, having been as idle, I fear, in my relation of these follies, as I was

134 THE MENTAL

was in the very committing of them.

And now have I not proved, my venerable Chiron, and kind preceptor, that a recollection of past pleasures gives pain? I could as easily prove too what I advanced before, that the remembrance of past pain gives me pleasure; for I have endured much of that also, thanks to the fair also, or rather, foul ladies, I often danced with at city halls, swan-hopping feasts, and sheriffs' banquets: You will oblige me in guessing the rest; and hope, like Dido, you will not make me

— *Infandum renovare dolorem.*

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

WE agreed, my dear Achilles, over our evening bottle, that the middle state of life was certainly the most eligible. Nay, we carried it so far, as to laugh very heartily at the known saying of the country-fellow, who wished to be above a constable, and yet not exalted enough to be a justice of peace — a post in his eye of most dignified rank and honour.

That the plain necessities of life are not our pursuit, is pretty evident; they lie in a small compass, are easily obtained, and easily maintained; but either the unlucky passions of love, or ambition, step in, imbitter the cup at once, and, tho' the common stage, or machine, hoy-boat, or sculler, will answer the very same ends of giving us country-

136 THE MENTAL

country-air, exercise, and refreshment, yet because we have not a coach of our own, forsooth, we forbid ourselves these pleasures! and so die, as Macbeth says on another occasion, with *Harnests on our back*. Can we believe it possible almost, that such crouds as we see below us there, should seclude themselves, even in age, from air and sunshine, green fields, and fine rural objects, for the sake of an additional hundred or a thousand pounds more? Nay, I am credibly informed, that there are many in this vast metropolis, who, if it were not for the shrubs and plants brought to Covent-garden, would scarce know, or have any idea, of a green tree; and are at a loss to know how corn appears in the shape of a loaf of bread: These are the people, no doubt,

doubt, which Mr. Pope aims at in the following distich ;

*Where in the silent growth of Cent.
per Cent.*

*In dirt and darkness thousands sink
content.*

So much for poetry and rhapsody, my Achilles! and yet believe me, I love those kind of lectures which arise naturally in the course of conversation, and ever was an enemy, as I have often told you, to those dogmatical instructions we receive from necessitous and hardened tutors in the first part, who are consulting their pocket and self-vanity, more than the honour or advantage of the pupil. But as I said, let us lose no time; I have but a few days more in town, which I have entirely allotted for your instruction and amuse-

138 THE MENTAL

amusement; after which, I shall retire for ever, and wait the sale of my invention in absence: if it answers, so much the better for the unfortunate public; if it fails, I have done my duty, have shewed myself a Christian and a man, and would have done more, had it been allotted me so to do by the Good Providence: In short, among friends, I am sick of a city, where there is not a vice which riches will not dignify, or a virtue, which poverty will not disgrace.

Well! what think you of that man, listening to the opinions of a circle of people, who seem to be fair tradesmen, but are only tradesmen; for they are all entering into an agreement never to shew mercy, but deal as hardly with the world as pawn-brokers; they give no reason for this, nor do they plead that
they

they have been cheated by sharpers, Irish half-pay officers, or young ladies of great souls but small fortune, who had rather pilfer than be industrious; as witness that very lady now, hawled away from the great street below, to a justice of peace, on the same occasion. But in general that modesty never gives the path to riches; for that to be wealthy, it is necessary to have no feeling, no affinity, but arrest your grandmother in an hard frost, and seize the bed under her, rather than lose a farthing by her.

But we will change, if you will, to something more sprightly. That black fellow there, is a printer's devil, as they call those sort of gentry, and has thrown himself out of good bread, because the puppy will affect to be of a party: what, should such fellows as he meddle with party!

The

The last master he served printed the play-bills ; and having one day changed his hands, for want of the attendance of some, or one, among the negro crowd, he, by accident, put this fellow to set the play-bill for the day ; but G. R. being at the top of it, in the natural course of the work, he declined it, and said, that he was an honest Jacobite, and prided himself on it ; and that he would starve, nay, die by inches, rather than alter his opinion ; which he must do, did he ever give it under his hand, or handy-work, that his was not the right heir, and so forth.

The fellow, you see, is fairly emaciated, and can't get the least employ. Who pities him ? Can any man in his senses, who feels the blessings derived to us by the present happy establishment, wish an alteration ?

alteration? And that such petty, insignificant blockheads, should have the assurance to be singular! Believe me, singularity of conduct is very dangerous, even in those of superior rank; nor did I ever know any one of an inferior station get by it, except an honest fishmonger, who, always on public fast days, kept his shop wide open; and being often, no doubt, interrogated by passers-by, why he did so, gave the same droll answer to every one, namely, that the King directed it to all his loving subjects throughout England, &c. and faith, says he, I am not one of them.

It was the same man, who, having sold some fish to his neighbours, pretended to be great œconomists, which were not of the best flavour; and being asked why he did so, told them, that it was their

OWN

142 THE MENTAL

own faults, for that the fish had been offered them a week ago, and they would not have them because the price was high; and now the price was abated to their wish, on the very same commodity, yet they were not satisfied.

Come, quick! what do you think of that man in very rich cloaths, who has just stepped out of a *sedan*, and is cheapening fish, flesh, and fowl at a tavern larder; the dearest market in the world, assuredly; and yet he not only does this to-day, but has practised it, and still will practise it, as long as —— But in short, I am going to lead you in opinion, whereas I would have you guess.

Why, then, says Achilles, I imagine that he has a very great friendship for the master of that tavern, and does not grudge paying fifty *per Cent.* extraordinary, to assist,
please,

please, and gratify, a worthy and industrious man.

Ha, ha, ha ! Well, but you will think his kindness still greater, will you not ? when you know that he does not dine in the house, but has the dinner sent hot, in superb parade, and bold procession, above a quarter of a mile ; in which time, every thing is spoilt, but the pastry, which is cold.

No doubt, says Achilles, this proves his friendship still higher ! for I think a man would rather eat a beef-steak or mutton-chop, from his own fire, in comfort, than such a luke-warm meal as this ; unless, as I said before, (which must be the case) he had great friendship for the master of the tavern.

Well, without taking up the glass, unless to catch me in a lye, if I deserve it, I do declare to you,
that

144 THE MENTAL

that the fine gentleman, as he appears, is so great an epicure, and understands the taste of eating so well, that he would himself much rather eat what you say, nay, even a sprat or red-herring, but that he has not a single shilling to go to market with.

Thus you see, my Achilles, (nay, if you doubt me, take the glass) thus you see, that where there is no principle, large debts may be contracted in this vast city and metropolis, where, in imitation of their betters, they are governed by shew, outside, and splendor. Had I, or you, my Achilles, in the plain habit we now appear in, called there, and ordered half what he has done this very day, he would have catechised our messenger pretty closely before he would have sent even the preamble of our dinner, the table-cloth

cloth and utensils : but the foolish fellow thought it an honour to have a laced coat in his entry and a sedan at his door ; and he has paid for it.

But pray let us wait a few minutes, and you will see the solemnity of the parade and procession, for such it is ; and like play-house processions, the same people pass twice or thrice over to make up the figure : there, count them ; one, two, three, four — why, there are seven men, besides boys with saucers in the first battalion ! How the genius must smile, when out of his window he first perceives all this train leading to his pavilion ; and all the time knows that he never will be able, nor ever intends to pay for it : Observe, he has but one shilling, and he gives it to the cook for having dressed the dinner so well : the fellow, no doubt, calls him his ho-

VOL. II. H nour ;

nour; by which, you see, how cheap titles are, if people will accept of them from the vulgar.

Every parson, beneficed or unbeneficed, is, for a shilling, or even less, a doctor of divinity; every scarlet-coated ensign is your honour, at least; every baronet, my lord; and every little petty tradesman, who can take a country cottage, tho' but for one summer, *Esquire*. What shall we say to all this? But let us a few moments longer watch this gentleman, and see how he stands an *innuendo* to-day, which to you, or me, would be a thunder-clap. The vintner, you see, whispers him, as though he wanted a little cash upon account; but the genius evades it; for at one flap, he orders an awn of rhenish, and an hog-head of claret: The man bows, the gentleman smiles within, and
fo

so affairs will go on till the latter thinks it necessary to decamp, and swell the number of chearful prisoners in that little island between Great-Britain and Hibernia: you see it there.

But, quick, quick, e'er the curtain of that study, or closet, drops; tell me, my Chiron, who that man is? he has been altering figures all this morning, and not regularly writing like others: pray tell me who he is, and what are his schemes?

Why, indeed, they are not particular, but too generally practised, I fear, in this extended and peopled metropolis: He is a man of taste, though a tradesman; and after shop is shut, is very angry to be thought any thing but a buck; aye, and of the first head too! Last night he lost fifty pounds at cards, and he is

now over-looking his debt book, to see where he may tack on as many individual trifles as shall make up the whole: There, you see, he is turning all his figures of 7 into 9, and putting a 0 to every 1; by which means, in very large affairs, he brings himself home, as they call it.

The ancestors of this man were prudent, pious, sober, industrious, and what not; had no luxury at home, nor exercised gaiety abroad: they came exactly within the very description of Mr. Pope's Sir Balaam, who lived so regular, that one day appeared like another; except when

*An added pudding solemniz'd the
lords.*

Trade then flourished, and tradesmen were content with quick business

ness and moderate gains: but now all integrity is over. Look through the dining-room windows of that long street under us there, and see what expence of china, plate, paintings, busts, furniture, &c. How can this be supported? Not by plain dealing, I assure you. All shame, as I said before, has left them; and the word bankrupt is as soft a name for misfortune, as intrigue is for whoring and debauchery beyond Temple-bar.

But the worst of all is, that they make a nation suffer; for our enemies, as has often been our mutual observation, outstrip us, outwit us, and over-stock every market in Europe at a cheaper and better rate. Thus, from private bankruptcies, the whole kingdom will be bankrupts, while our opposite neighbours, and inveterate enemies, rise

150 THE MENTAL

and grow great on our destruction. It must be a subject for many private evenings, when I enter minutely into our errors in trade for these last twenty years: but believe me, we have been a constant bubble in private and public affairs! I am so deeply interested in the welfare of my country, that I can't refrain telling you what we have been, and still might be, by mentioning only what distant nations now are. I shall little more than give you heads of what I propose, hereafter, to be more explicit in: but it will shew my inclination (as Hamlet says)

Beggar that I am —

I have been told, and believe it, from the probity and veracity of the relater, that in the eastern countries, (commonly stigmatized with the
names

names of barbarians and infidels) that in traffic, their honour, justice, and integrity, are amazing. As near as I can, I will relate it to you as we descend; for I am not in health to-day, and will reserve our future observations till another time: pray check me freely if you think I deceive you.

The goods they bring, or send to market, have all the sterling mark on them, so as never to be distrusted: their fairs are held in an open plain, distant from which are the several tents filled with merchandize of the different countries, quite like a camp, with their horses, equipages, futtling-houses, diversions, and so forth.

Well, the goods are all carried to a certain line, drawn for that purpose, and there left in the night-time, with not a word spoke, but

the prices fixed on them in writing. The next day the buyers come, unseen by the sellers, and writing under the first agreed price what they desire to be abated, retire again ; and still without exchanging a single word, even tho' they should by chance see each other.

There are fixed hours for the buyer and seller to appear, that they may not meet ; perhaps by the ringing of a bell, or stroke of a clock, beat of drum, or sound of trumpet, no matter which ; they understand the signal, and meet accordingly.

The buyer and seller are now alternately employed in altering their prices, till at last, perhaps, the sum is agreed on ; but if it is not in so many days, all the goods are taken away till the next fair, which, perhaps is months afterwards:
Knowing

OPTICIAN. 153

Knowing this to be the case, you may imagine how eager they are to put a finishing stroke to the affair in hand ; and as there can be no fraud in weight or measure, all is done in an instant of time.

Now judge, my Achilles, how we must appear in the eyes of that part of the world, when our marks have been dishonoured, and often falsified, to push trade, as it is called ! That a country, who once were the very pink and mirror of integrity through the known world, should now have a sully thrown on the whole body, for the villainous behaviour, trick, finesse, and chicanery of a rascally few ! This is our situation in trade now, I am told ; and therefore, no wonder if our constant enemies there take advantage of this, increase the scandal, promote our ill fame, and thus

H 5 artfully

artfully over-stock every market in Europe.

But I see it affects you! You are one of the few honest Englishmen, according to the original system. But all that tribe of commonly-called tradesmen, along that capital street there, have so increased their expences, by gay wives, country houses, equipages, and the like, that they are not content with the moderate profits of their honest ancestors, but cheat as often as they can within the lash of the law; and then, when you wonder at their exorbitant demands, they cry, why, indeed Sir, *as I live*, I can't sell it for less. No, indeed, not as they live; for they have the impudence to live like a young nobleman under age, whose extravagance is promoted by their own stewards, that are to be, in order to

get

get the estate to themselves in the end.

C H A P. XI.

COULD you have believed, my dear Achilles, that the world, particularly the trading part of it, are as they seem? I own to you, most ingenuously, that the latter are so much changed, that I almost hate to walk the streets: for if an hat is cocked up more fierce than ordinary, now-a-days, it is not an officer, it is not an independent esquire, or country gentleman, but most likely a bankrupt or a tradesman.

Come; now to business. Tell me the real and unfeigned heart of that seeming gentleman in blue there, well dawbed with lace: You would take him at first sight for a lieutenant of a man of war, captain

156 THE MENTAL

of marines, perhaps, or one who has a considerable place in some of the public offices! but I fancy the glass will discover other truths. Shall I tell you; or will you trust to the glass?

Indeed, says Achilles, I have ever found you so exact in descriptions, and with the addition of your own conversation too, and remarks thereon, that I had rather, or full as lief, keep your invention for my private self, when alone, and trust to your opinion, when present: Pray explain to me the mysterious character in view; for I suspect him strongly to be as different from what he seems, as any one we have surveyed for many months. Pray inform me.

He is then, you must know, a gentleman, without land, profession, income, pension, or place; and

and yet lives well: He looks on all tradesmen as mechanical, but does, in private, the most servile things imaginable! he will black his own shoes, powder his wig, and mend his own cloaths, after having first brushed them better than any menial servant in London.

About this hour of the day he descends from his garret; and nobody asks, or even suspects, where he slept the night before! he talks much of burgundy, champagne, cards, new plays, new fashions, and is, in short, a most busy man in all the pleasures of this great metropolis. He is the first man to damn a play; heads all subscriptions, and, as his name is a good one, is never sorry, when, by mistake, they call him honourable, or right honourable, in any list of subscribers, at a
horse-

horse-race, public assembly, concert, or cock-fighting.

This seeming gentleman is very early at coffee-houses, and there passes for a great politician : but his business is to gather paragraphs for to-morrow's news-paper, (in which office he shines) or watch the advertisements, to see if they hit his wants or fears : and now I see that you smoke me, as they call it. In short then, I must tell you, that though he is seen at every opera, polite assembly, rout, card-playing, dancing-bout, and the like, frequently giving his hand to ladies of the first fashion, as they approach their chairs and coaches ; yet, after evening shuts in, he is never to be found but in moonshine-nights ; and in the very worst of times, always keeps a stable of most excellent hunters.

No

No place but such a large and peopled metropolis, could cover or conceal a man of this kind! He has chambers in the Temple, for safety, as well as eminence; for he publickly calls himself a Templar, as if he was a student there! but privately, his neighbours and acquaintance call him night-templer, leaving the letter K out, when they speak it, or write his situation, on the direction of any letter which falls into their hands, by some mistake.

What a world we live in! He is not ashamed to go to court on birth-days, or birth-nights, and never fails the front box at a new play: If the house laughs at him, he laughs still louder, and never knew the least uneasiness but once; when he saw himself advertised, with such particular tokens and descriptions,
that

that even strangers gave him the full stare; insomuch, that he blushed for once, and never came to that coffee-house any more.

But let us change the subject! he would have been hanged, but that a privateer was going out, and he was appointed captain of marines on board her; and having had the impudence to make up regimentals like the officers in the guards, still maintains his assurance, by passing for such in all strange company, where the foolish fellow thinks he is not known.

You see the fatal consequence of a town life, my Achilles! he was bred well, well educated, and could he have wedded himself to the pestel and mortar, might now have been a very considerable practitioner: but that was all mechanical! London was the place for men of genius

nus in every branch ! he was a connoisseur in pictures, prints, bronzes, medals, medallions, casts, cameas, intaglias, and what not ! he was at auctions a leading man ; at balls, the first, and most capital dancer ; at tea-tables, the most exact attendant ; at assemblies, the politest companion ; at hunting matches, the boldest and most intrepid rider ; and, at horse-races, and cock-matches, the most daring better. This he called taste and genius ! a country life was being buried alive : he scorned it ! and a few years hence he will still shew his genius, by getting out of prison, but will be apprehended and hanged without ceremony of the proper officer, or the least pity of his friends.

I have rather dwelt too long on so insignificant a character ; but, as there are so many in this metropolis
of

of the same stamp, thought it necessary, that you might believe, and truly credit the old saying, That no man knows, in London, how his neighbour lives ! A saying, no more frequent than true ; for I believe, no city can afford such instances of parsimony and luxury, honesty and villainy, truth and falsehood, plenty and want, industry and idleness, as this vast unlimited metropolis.

To tell you the truth, I often amuse myself (being pretty speculative) in tracing mankind home to their darkest and most secret recesses : I am not governed by the figure they make at coffee-houses, taverns, assemblies, play-houses, Vauxhall, Ranelagh, Marybone, or the like ; for I, by my glass, and indeed now by my observation, and proper comparison, find them to be coiners, filers, sweaters of money, forgers
of.

of seamens wills, pimps, bullies, spies, perjurers, and what you will that is black and infamous. These are the crowd who make up the great and busy world; and yet, if an affidavit should be necessary in any court of justice, for want of fixing their real occupation, they are all stiled gentlemen, if not esquires: titles as plenty, and with as little title to them, as half the counts in France, or princes in Germany.

Well, so much for him: You will by practice, my Achilles, know them at first sight, and really too; as well as a painter knows an original from a copy, or a woollen-draper a good, from a bad commodity. Come now, without the glass, or the least hint from me, to aid you in the pursuit, what think you of that well-drest man, I should
say,

164 THE MENTAL

say, gentleman, who is so humbly and familiarly conversing with the old grey-bearded beggar there.

Why, truly, says Achilles, I take him for a most humane and worthy man; who, though blest with affluence, is not above talking with his inferior, and who, though drest like a king, can fall even with dignity, as Mr. Pope calls it, to talk with a beggar.

Ha, ha, ha; what a mistake! why I see you are never to be trusted without leading-strings. Come, never mind the glass, for I will tell you in a few words, that the well-drest gentleman is only a beggarly painter, who left his master before his time was out, and, having in vain tried to get a livelihood by portraits of fine ladies, and their very fine attendants, now finds it more advantageous to take the features of
such

such a withered beggar there; and by putting them in an auction, they pass for *Rembrant's*, and painters of the first magnitude.

I have known this very fellow live a month in an alms-house to copy old women; aye, and to more advantage too than taking the visages of the most celebrated beauties in this town, modest, or otherwise. He knows already, young as he is, what a whimsical mad world it is, and he humours them accordingly. Do you know that he keeps a coach, and has had the assurance to put under his coat of arms, *Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur?* And so far from resenting this, the young bucks speak of it with praise, and call him a jolly hearty fellow.

You see by this single circumstance, how little modesty has any chance of thriving in this world:
and

166 THE MENTAL

and indeed I ever knew it to starve, as well in trade, as the three great professions, as they are called. No, no; 'tis the land of impudence and assurance! and yet, so pleasing is the name of modesty and bashfulness, that the very professors of the contrary, to make themselves amiable, call their neighbours brazen, bronze, and what not! and wonder any man of virtue or merit will keep them company.

Come; now to try you again; for I cannot always be with you, and I really think it almost time that you should both stand and go alone in these things, what say you to the clergyman there, who looks as black as a German shoe-ball, and is steering towards the steps of the palace?

No doubt, says Achilles, he is bending his course to court, that
he

he may partake of the religious duties there, in the highest and most elevated way, by all the great officers of the crown attending: I have known many such, who have their devotion raised higher by the presence even of a B—p, much more a K—g in person. But pray tell me his errand and his business, for by your asking the question, I greatly suspect that he is no more what he seems, than half the clergy, dignified and undignified, in this vast metropolis.

His errand then, says Chiron, is to whisper some malice there against a reverend divine, for no other reason, than because the latter has the credit and character of being ten times as ingenious as he ought to be! Religion and wit, cries the old reverend doctor, are incompatible;
it

168 THE MENTAL

it is impossible he can be a Christian and write poetry.

However, as this is not quite sufficient to stop his preferment, the divine villain invents several stories of him that more immediately affect his character! See with what joy and elevation of heart he returns down stairs again, having shot all his arrows, and lodged several, so as never to be extracted; or, if extracted, so deep that the wound will never heal again.

The two parties meet there, you see, under the colonade—Pray let this be a token to you for ever of courtly insincerity; for you know what a villain one of them is; and yet you see how cordially he embraces him, enquires after his health, and even weeps when he hears that his friend has been disappointed.

There

There is, my dear Achilles, a sympathy, and an antipathy, in life, that can hardly be accounted for ! people at first sight are often friends, and as often enemies ! without the least provocation they will revenge, and without the least desire reward, many ! What can one say to this ? Nay, more ; all the intercession, recommendation, and management, can't bring some people together, when others shall unite like globules of quicksilver, so as to be one and the same in an instant. I will open my mind to you in private on this head ; for some idle spectators, I see, are in the gallery ; they come, as we have done often in our youth, to see spires of churches, and the hurry and tumult of a metropolis, without knowing or guessing why : hereafter, much vexation, treachery, and disappointment, may

170 THE MENTAL

render them as we are, *Knowing ones*, my Achilles! for there must be some quantity of experience, even though the glass may explain things, before you will be a thorough believer. I was an infidel in these matters at first; but now, believe me, I look on man no longer as a mystery or labyrinth: there is one clue which will always unravel them; aye, lead to their inmost, and even secret recesses, I mean, interest; for let people be of what nation they will, talk what language they please, or wear what habits they are used to, according the country they were born in; nay, let them be of what persuasion or religion they will, in one thing they all unite; which is, interest! More of this in our evening association, for we are interrupted; let us depart.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

MY discourse to you, is rather a summary, than an exact history of the personages and characters we observe, my Achilles! Our time is too short; nay, our whole life is scarce sufficient, to unravel the smallest and most insignificant of those people under us: Mr. Pope confirms this opinion in a much happier way than I can pretend.

*Expatriate free o'er all this scene of
man,*

*A mighty maze—but not without a
plan.*

They are, indeed, a maze! Scarce a creature, male or female, is really what he appears. Would you believe, my Achilles, that the va-

liant officer there, walking in the Green Park, who has the rank of General, nay, even has his picture drawn, and metzotintos taken from it, with cannon, standards, kettle-drums, and, what Shakespear so very aptly calls the *pomp and circumstance of war*, should dread being employed in battle, and perpetually is pleading nervous disorders, as an excuse for neglect, or non-attendance on his duty : but so it is ! He he is *bearded like a pard*, as the same poet says in another play, but has an heart more timid than a boarding-school girl.

There goes an admiral ! you may know him to be of that rank by the lace on his uniform : Why, he is a very counterpart of the other : Were you to see his cabin, 'tis gilt and painted like a child's trumpet : he has an enamelled clock there too :
his

his toilet set out with perfumes and almond powders, scented waters, and violet wash-balls : he has even some capital paintings hanging up there too, in most costly frames ; his side-board groans under the weight of silver plate, and glitters, like a tragedy king, with brilliant drinking-glasses edged with gold, the better to give a zest to the wine he drinks.

Though an Englishman, he has not a bit of English ware in his house ; his cloaths are silk or velvet ; his deserts are all on china ; and he orders his morning-gun to be only half charged, lest it should make his head ach. Can we wonder then if such men miscarry ? Send them to attack a fort briskly, and at once there is shoal water near it, or, it is too strongly defended, the cannon have

174 THE MENTAL

too great a weight of metal, or, in short, any thing to get away from danger and broken bones.

Yet this same man has the impudence to have fire-arms before him when he rides: at his country-house there is a room like a pannel in the Tower of London; drums, pikes, standards, pistols, bayonets, carabines, and the Lord knows what! the country-fellows think him brave; and so he thinks himself; but I know he will soon be employed, that the common enemy will insult him, and the flag he carries, in a most conspicuous and audacious manner, and he will be the reverse of the motto to the order of the thistle; which, though it has been burlesqued by some ill-natured wit, is a very noble saying too; you know it, and so does every

every school-boy, therefore shall not repeat it.

He will be called to an account for all this at his return home; but you will see, that it will vanish all in smoke again immediately: He already privately knows, that let him do what he will, indemnification is the word; and he is too well allied to fear any animadversions, higher than those of coffee-house politicians, and the impertinent French refugees at the two Slaughters.

To tell you the truth, and you will live to see it verified, he is not only in p—— himself, but has three brothers there also: he has a b——gh or two on his estate, and talks louder than an Irish fortune-hunter, where he thinks, like the latter, he is not suspected! all his activity consists, and ever will con-

176 THE MENTAL

sist, in taking defenceless prizes, who can neither stay nor run away: and he is more proud to see his name in a news-paper, or government Gazette, for bringing home such a French Indiaman, as was taken from us the other day, than ten men of war from the common enemy.

Talk to him of glory, and honour, and rank, and the figure a good commander makes in a naval history, and he laughs; or, as Shakespear says on another occasion, he is for an Indiaman, an *acupulca*, or galleon, *or he sleeps*: Honour, says he! why, as my honest friend Jack Falstaff cries, *who has it? The man who died on Wednesday; does he see it or feel it?* No. Why then, to conclude with that great wit, and very wise man, *Honour is a mere escutcheon;*

escutcheon; and so ends the catechism.

But pray, while we are thus on the plan of proving that not one man is as he seems, there goes a clergyman now; he has near 2000*l.* a year, a good figure, graceful action, clear voice, much learning, (more than any dignified priest in general inherits) and a very excellent manner of preaching; but he hates it: and, though very often solicited to do it for charity, as title gives rank to those sermons, he complains too of want of spirits, a slow fever, dread of a return of his last ague, and the like.

When unfortunate beggars petition him for charity, he has no small change, wishes them well, gives them a God bless, or God help ye; but not a doit, even of the basest coin: He will pass that qua-

178 THE MENTAL

drangular four-fronted hospital there, at the end of his walk, as he goes to and again, without giving a sigh, or even putting up a prayer, for the unfortunate and miserable patients, on their beds of pain, though it would cost him nothing.

He loves a privy council, a court of delegates, or the house of lords : There he will endure real fatigues and pain, with a degree of pleasure; and often will pretend to say, (such an hypocrite he is !) that he wishes the business of the kingdom did not interrupt his more divine offices ; but that in gratitude to his great master, he cannot neglect his duty there ; and through love to his bleeding and dear country, he must not forget the service he owes to them ; nay, will even have the assurance to use Mr. Addison's own words,

Ob,

*Oh, Liberty! Oh, Virtue! Oh,
my Country!*

Come, let us change the scene a little; and pray only observe that gentleman in the tye-wig there: he has a very senatorial look, and is, by the bye, a m——r of p——t; nay, even a knight of the sh——e too. Would you think, with all that seeming sincerity, that he has this moment quitted the closet of a very very great man, and even promised his mite of assistance, I mean his single v——e, to pass a favourite bill, which, in the end, will ruin his poor country?

That physician there! nay, you may easily know him by his amber cane and snuff-box, is going to visit the patients of that hospital gratis, as the world imagine; but believe

180 THE MENTAL

me, his heart is as hard as a pawn-broker's, and he has no views in it but to serve himself, when there is a vacancy there, which is very soon expected: See how tenderly he feels all the patients pulses! and that whisper he just gave to his companion, was, though you could not hear it, *How I humm the nurses?*

But he will be disappointed when the election comes on; for in large bodies of men, there are knowing-ones, who will not be taken in by such a stale bait: He had no practice of his own, and, therefore, was glad to pass some of his idle hours in a colour and pretence of business! Every man would fain be thought of some little consequence in life, let his station or profession be what it will. And well thought of! there is another instance before us, *in point*, as the sage lawyers call it! and

and the very object, is a limb of that very profession.

He has been called to the bar near ten years; and, except to gape, or yawn, or laugh at the wit of his superiors within the bar, has never opened his lips in court; yet you see what a hurry and bustle he makes, as though he was within the bar, talks of seals and sittings, late hours, a vertigo in his head from multiplicity of business, and bows to every coach he sees pass him that has a coronet; infomuch, that he has often, and still is, called *quality Charles*.

His bag there is stuffed with shavings for want of paper: he hangs about the court of requests, to make believe that he sometimes is council there, at the bar of the house; and dates his letters to his cousins in Devonshire, from *the lobby of the house*, that he may appear,

182 THE MENTAL

pear, in their narrow judgments, a man of extended fame and acquaintance.

He is so puffed up with the dignity of his profession, that he swears they have a right to wear the richest cloaths that can be bought; and therefore has more than one suit of plain and flowered velvet, (though he bought them of the valet de chambre of some departed nobleman lately) and boldly struts in them to a drawing-room on birth-nights, particularly, where he is so well known and marked for having pocketed bottles and sweetmeats, that he now makes himself sick with eating and drinking, because he can't carry away any thing, and because he loves to have his penny-worth for his penny, as the common saying is.

Well, the stage of life seems so crowded to-day, that, like the last scene of a comedy or tragedy, the characters all appear at once: Indeed, the curtain will soon drop! for I shall scarce pay above two visits more, if so many, to this spot; but leave you the glass for your own use; and think I have been no very bad preceptor, in so short a time, to explain what I have done: I want to retire.

It is not only this nasty cough, and short breathing, which makes me want to be in the country, but really I am sick of the vices and follies of this scoundrel metropolis; my sheep, my cows, my waterfalls! you see how big I talk, my Achilles, for a man scarce worth foot soldier's pay; but I call every thing I see mine; and do not doubt
but

but I enjoy these things more than the owners.

I have by this kind of fanciful fee-simple, (as the lawyers call it) above an hundred very fine houses and gardens in this kingdom; I have parks, fish-ponds, rivers, woods, and shrubberies every where; whatever alterations they make, I impudently, not only think, but say, that I make them; and they please, or displease me, just as if they were my own.

For every architect is not satisfied even with his own performances; nay, the great Sir Christopher Wren, I am told, when he has walked through the church-yard below, and surveyed this noble pile, (the work of his own head, if not his hands) has wished he was to do it over again, for that he could have made a better design.

If

OPTICIAN. 185

If I am forbid any house, with its ornaments of parks and plantations, where I have once been intimate, I immediately look on it as a place I have taken some secret dislike to, and therefore do not chuse to go there again, at least for some time, and till my mind alters.

This is nothing new ! There are many noblemen and gentlemen in this island, possessed of half a dozen capital mansions, and yet not above one is a favourite with them ! And as to ladies taking a dislike, there is no accounting for their change of palate : possession, with them, most commonly alters every thing. I wish I could explain myself more on this head ; but Mr. Pope has done it for me much better : It is time to depart ; but first hear what he says on such an occasion.

Ardelia

*Ardelio, wedded to her am'rous
spark,*

*Sighs for the shade—how charming
is a park!*

*A park is purchas'd—but the fair
he sees*

*All bath'd in tears—Oh! odious,
odious trees.*

Adieu, till to-morrow; 'tis perhaps the last day; let us be early; though I can't find fault with you: you are the opposite of most young men, and rise early; tho' Brutus says, that

Young bloods look for a time of rest.

CHAP. XIII.

CHIRON this morning, on meeting his pupil at the bottom of the stairs, said, something
has

has happened you may imagine, that I look so grave; and instead of leading you the way up to our favourite prospect-place, rather stand in the way and prevent you. My curtain is quite dropt, I assure you: The glass is yours; and I doubt not, but with the few observations we have made together, that you will hereafter judge right enough; though, never exactly, till you can divest yourself of envy, on the one hand, and a love of flattery on the other.

If I make any improvements in my retirement, you shall hear of me: my friends, in general, shall never know me but in my prosperity; in my adversity I will not trouble them. I asked a very small favour at their hands but last night, and was most shamefully refused! the affair was this—

188 THE MENTAL

I often, as I have told you, in my hours of speculation, visit the gaols, and places of confinement, in this metropolis; I was so affected with the behaviour of a poor lad, who, by this time, has paid the debt of nature, but whose real character I had first made myself master of before I saw him, that I quitted all business, quiet, and pleasure, last night, to solicit his reprieve, at the tall house there, near ——— you see it plain enough; for I am ashamed to mention the place, as my blood chills to think there should be such an unfeeling, unchristian, unpitying man living, who has the power to do every thing great and good, and yet never was caught in the fact of doing either.

Well, I went accordingly, and after bearing all that insult, which, as Hamlet says,

Patient

Patient merit of the unworthy takes,

I was, as a great proof of his greatness's condescension, admitted to see and speak to him ; I told him, that a poor young fellow, well bred, has, for the first offence, fallen a victim to the laws of his country ; that I had watched him, and his behaviour, privately, ever since his first commitment, and found every thing I wished in the sincerest penitent, and therefore I came to intercede for his life ; for that I was convinced he would make a good subject in that part of the world where contrite hearts seem much wanted ; that I was easy, tho' his transportation was for life ; but could not disown, I hoped to see his life preserved ; and was convinced, his
prayers,

190 THE MENTAL

prayers, if he lived, would follow his patron to the grave.

The great man stared, and ran about with as much ignorant and unmeaning hurry, as Mr. Cadwalader in a certain farce; talked much of the good laws of his country, his dislike to shaping them to particular purposes, and the like; but concluded all, by saying, Sir, I am for justice, strict and upright justice; let the guilty suffer; his m——y is too mild! But, (and then whispered) if you, or any friend of yours, (for if I remember right you are a Nottinghamshire man) can serve me with even a single vote in the borough of ****, I'll save his life, not else! Here ended the whisper: Then, as loud as the voice of a *Stentor*, He must die, Sir; I love, and abide by the laws of my country; justice must take place—I'm
very

very busy—an express is just arrived; I have dispatches, and must go to court.

Thus we parted.—The poor young fellow, by this time, is happy, and clear of a troublesome and ungrateful world.—I wish you well: accept the only present my poor situation will admit of; I mean the glass. Never displease me by being foolishly fond of this paltry world, and you will, in the end, most assuredly please yourself. Take good care of your health, and your spirits will take care of themselves. Be thankful for the share of good sense you now enjoy, (and which will of course increase) by pitying those who have less, and not envying the person who may have more: I say *the* person, as I believe there are not two such.

Adieu!

192 THE MENTAL, &c.

Adieu! perhaps, for ever! And
let me conclude in my Addison's
own words, against you quit the
world, like myself,

*There, live retir'd; pray for the
peace of Rome;*

*Content thyself to be, obscurely, good:
When vice prevails, and impious
men bear sway,*

*The post of honour is a private sta-
tion.*



F I N I S.

